

SB3075

Measure Title:
RELATING TO EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS.

Report Title:
Epidemiologic Investigations

Description:
Grants the Department of Health authority to take samples necessary for epidemiologic investigations.

Package:
Governor

Companion:
HB3153

Introducer(s):
HANABUSA (BR)

Current Referral:
HTH

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

SB 3075, Relating to Epidemiologic Investigations

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 8, 2008, 1:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** This is an administration proposal that the Department strongly supports.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would allow the Department the authority to collect samples
4 necessary for epidemiologic investigations. The interruption, containment, and prevention of outbreaks
5 of dangerous diseases depend on timely epidemiological investigations that include determining the
6 source and tracking the spread of disease. Collection and analysis of plant, animal, food, or
7 environmental samples may be necessary to identify the source or specific type of microbiological or
8 chemical contamination. Analytical testing results provide essential data needed to determine how to
9 interrupt an outbreak as well as prevent future outbreaks. In the case of serious or life-threatening
10 diseases, rapid determination of the causes is critical.

11 Epidemiological investigations have been impeded by refusal of individuals to allow Department
12 of Health investigators access to property or permission to obtain samples necessary for analysis.

13 This measure is necessary to protect the public.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.