
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A SCIENCE
ADVISORY GROUP OF EXPERTS SPECIALIZING IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF TESTS FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1 WHEREAS, among other responsibilities, the Biological
2 Response Section of the State Laboratories Division of the
3 Department of Health is intended to:

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- 5 (1) Analyze and detect microbial threat agents on human
6 and animal clinical specimens; environmental soil,
7 water, and "white" powder samples; and food samples in
8 response to bioterrorism and other public health
9 emergencies;
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- 11 (2) Provide training for sentinel laboratorians in the
12 presumptive identification of bioterrorism agents in
13 clinical specimens;
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- 15 (3) Ensure that sentinel laboratories are prepared to
16 detect and respond to a bioterrorism event in an
17 appropriate and integrated manner;
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- 19 (4) Ensure secure and timely electronic reporting of
20 laboratory results to the United States Centers for
21 Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of
22 Health, and other stakeholders;
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- 24 (5) Provide pulsed-field gel electrophoresis testing and
25 analysis, which is bacterial DNA fingerprinting, in
26 support of the Disease Outbreak Control Division of
27 the Department of Health; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State needs to be on the alert for emerging
2 infectious diseases, such as the dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and
3 West Nile viruses; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State Laboratories Division has recently
6 received dengue and Zika virus testing kits from the Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention; and
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9 WHEREAS, the State Laboratories Division has shown that it
10 lacks the capability to develop immunological-based and nucleic
11 acid-based testing in the State and cannot provide in-house
12 testing for infectious diseases; and
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14 WHEREAS, the State Laboratories Division is unwilling to
15 establish localized testing facilities on neighbor islands, and
16 is thus causing delays in the evaluation and treatment of
17 patients and appropriate remediation of the environment; now,
18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
23 Health is requested to convene a science advisory group of
24 experts specializing in the development of tests for emerging
25 infectious diseases; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the science advisory group is
28 requested to:
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- 30 (1) Evaluate the State Laboratories Division's current
31 testing policies and procedures, and its capability
32 and capacity to respond to health threats;
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- 34 (2) Make recommendations regarding available state of the
35 art tests;
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- 37 (3) Make recommendations for a laboratory in the State of
38 Hawaii that will rapidly respond to infectious
39 diseases occurring in the State and the Pacific
40 region;
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- 1 (4) Report on agreements within and without the State for
- 2 laboratory testing and associated costs; and
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- 4 (5) Estimate the costs of developing testing facilities on
- 5 the neighbor islands; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the science advisory group is
 8 requested to include, at minimum, experts in evaluation of and
 9 testing for emerging infectious diseases, including individuals
 10 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the
 11 National Institutes of Health, and the John A. Burns School of
 12 Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and

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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the science advisory group is
 15 requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations
 16 to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the
 17 convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the science advisory group is
 20 requested to cease to exist on December 31, 2016; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
 24 Director of Health, who is requested to transmit copies to the
 25 Chair of the Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical
 26 Microbiology & Pharmacology at the John A. Burns School of
 27 Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; the Director of
 28 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the Director
 29 of the National Institutes of Health.

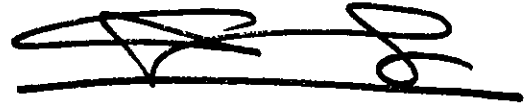
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