



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 947
RELATING TO RECORDS OF FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS**

SENATOR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR (JDL)

Hearing Date: March 16, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined at this time.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this
3 Administration's proposed bill as written. At the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH), the treatment
4 teams, along with the Forensic Coordinator, review copies of the court examinations. This bill
5 creates increased consistency between statutes pertaining to Unfit to Proceed and Acquit and
6 Commit, specifically regarding HSH receiving copies of court examinations upon commitment
7 to the hospital. It is essential that the treating professionals receive these evaluations as this
8 information will help to improve the effectiveness and safety of the treatment environment.

9 Forensic evaluations are critical in helping treating professionals at HSH with specific
10 information about treatment focus, treatment planning and assessment and management of risk.
11 Consistency in accessing court examinations will contribute to improved assessment, treatment
12 planning, care coordination and HSH discharge planning.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.