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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A  
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, forensic science is the process of using science  
2 to resolve legal issues; and

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4 WHEREAS, forensic science may involve the application of  
5 various fields of science, including anthropology, biology,  
6 chemistry, engineering, genetics, medicine, pathology, voice  
7 analysis, psychiatry, and toxicology to matters involving law  
8 enforcement; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department's Scientific  
11 Investigation Section includes the only full-service forensic  
12 laboratory in the State; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Scientific Investigation Section's forensic  
15 laboratory is commonly referred to as the "crime lab"; and

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17 WHEREAS, other law enforcement agencies in the State have  
18 more limited facilities and trained staff available for the  
19 application of forensic science; and

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21 WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to improve the  
22 application of forensic science for law enforcement purposes in  
23 the State; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
26 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
27 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of the  
28 Attorney General is requested to establish a working group to  
29 study forensic laboratories in the State; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 2 to include representatives from the Federal Bureau of  
 3 Investigation, the Department of Public Safety, the Judiciary,  
 4 the police department of each county, the office of the  
 5 prosecutor of each county, the Office of the Public Defender,  
 6 criminal defense attorneys, the Hawaii State Bar Association,  
 7 the American Civil Liberties Union, state legislators, the  
 8 Department of Transportation, and a professor of forensic  
 9 science from Chaminade University; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 12 to study the capabilities, staffing levels, case loads, and task  
 13 completion times of forensic laboratories in the State; and  
 14 accreditation requirements and other issues related to the  
 15 operation of forensic laboratories; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 18 to specifically analyze the following issues:  
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- 20 (1) The number of forensic tests conducted annually by the  
 21 Honolulu Police Department and other crime  
 22 laboratories in this State;  
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- 24 (2) The sources of requests to the Honolulu Police  
 25 Department and other crimes laboratories in this State  
 26 for forensic testing;  
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- 28 (3) The number of requests to the Honolulu Police  
 29 Department and other crime laboratories in this State  
 30 from state agencies for forensic testing;  
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- 32 (4) Methods in which the Honolulu Police Department sends  
 33 evidence to other states for forensic testing;  
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- 35 (5) The number of times each year that the Honolulu Police  
 36 Department sends evidence to other states for forensic  
 37 testing;  
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- 39 (6) The costs for forensic testing that is conducted in  
 40 other states for the Honolulu Police Department;  
 41
- 42 (7) Additional costs related to forensic testing,  
 43 including costs for experts from other states to



- 1 travel to this State to testify as prosecution
- 2 witnesses;
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- 4 (8) Any projected increases in costs for forensic testing
- 5 in this State;
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- 7 (9) The sources of funding for DNA testing of felons who
- 8 are convicted in this State; and
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- 10 (10) The sources of funding for equipping and operating
- 11 forensic laboratories in this State and in other
- 12 states; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 15 to provide a report, including any findings, recommendations,  
 16 and proposed legislation, through the Attorney General, to the  
 17 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 18 the regular session of 2018; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,  
 22 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Public  
 23 Safety, the Judiciary, the police department of each county, the  
 24 office of the prosecutor of each county, the Office of the  
 25 Public Defender, the Hawaii State Bar Association, the American  
 26 Civil Liberties Union, and Chaminade University.

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