
SENATE 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 Senate of the Twenty-ninth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
27 House of Representatives 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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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
32 to include:



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- 2 (1) One representative from the Federal Bureau of
- 3 Investigation;
- 4
- 5 (2) One representative from the Department of Public
- 6 Safety;
- 7
- 8 (3) One representative from the Judiciary;
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- 10 (4) One representative from the police department of each
- 11 county;
- 12
- 13 (5) One representative from the department or office of
- 14 the prosecutor of each county;
- 15
- 16 (6) One representative from the Office of the Public
- 17 Defender;
- 18
- 19 (7) One representative from the private criminal defense
- 20 bar;
- 21
- 22 (8) One representative appointed by the Hawaii State Bar
- 23 Association;
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- 25 (9) One representative from the American Civil Liberties
- 26 Union;
- 27
- 28 (10) The chair of the Senate standing committee with
- 29 primary subject matter jurisdiction over public
- 30 safety;
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- 32 (11) The chair of the House of Representatives standing
- 33 committee with primary subject matter jurisdiction
- 34 over public safety; and
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- 36 (12) A professor of forensic science from Chaminade
- 37 University; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
40 to study the capabilities, staffing levels, caseloads, and task
41 completion times of forensic laboratories in the State; and



1 accreditation requirements and other issues related to the
2 operation of forensic laboratories; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
5 to specifically analyze the following issues:

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7 (1) The number of forensic tests conducted annually by the
8 Honolulu Police Department and other crime
9 laboratories in this State;
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11 (2) The sources of requests to the Honolulu Police
12 Department and other crimes laboratories in this State
13 for forensic testing;
- 14
15 (3) The number of requests to the Honolulu Police
16 Department and other crime laboratories in this State
17 from state agencies for forensic testing;
- 18
19 (4) Methods by which the Honolulu Police Department sends
20 evidence to other states for forensic testing;
- 21
22 (5) The number of times each year that the Honolulu Police
23 Department sends evidence to other states for forensic
24 testing;
- 25
26 (6) The costs for forensic testing that is conducted in
27 other states for the Honolulu Police Department;
- 28
29 (7) Additional costs related to forensic testing,
30 including costs for experts from other states to
31 travel to this State to testify as prosecution
32 witnesses;
- 33
34 (8) Any projected increases in costs for forensic testing
35 in this State;
- 36
37 (9) The sources of funding for DNA testing of felons who
38 are convicted in this State; and
- 39
40 (10) The sources of funding for equipping and operating
41 forensic laboratories in this State and in other
42 states; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
3 to provide an interim report, including any findings,
4 recommendations, and proposed legislation, through the Attorney
5 General, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
6 the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
9 to provide a final report, including any findings,
10 recommendations, and proposed legislation, through the Attorney
11 General, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
12 the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,
16 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of Public
17 Safety, Chief Justice, the police chief of each county, the
18 Prosecuting Attorney of each county, the Office of the Public
19 Defender, the Hawaii State Bar Association, the American Civil
20 Liberties Union, and Chaminade University.

