



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 23, 2017
2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

H.C.R. NO. 131 / H.R. 81
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH
A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** with amendment H.C.R. 131/H.R. 81, which requests that the Department of the Attorney General establish a working group to study forensic laboratories in the State.

DOT is responsible for the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program in Hawaii. DRE's are law enforcement officers who are specially trained in drug detection and classification. Part of the DRE process includes the request for forensic toxicology samples from their subjects for lab analysis. As such, the DOT has a vested interest in toxicology testing in the State and respectfully requests that a representative from our Department be included in the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.C.R. NO. 131 and H.R. NO. 81, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2017

TIME: 2:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (the "Department") respectfully requests funding to support the efforts proposed by this resolution.

This resolution requests that the Attorney General establish a working group to study the capabilities, staffing levels, case loads, and task completion times of forensic laboratories in the State, as well as accreditation requirements and other specific issues related to the operation of the forensic laboratories and the forensic testing conducted by those laboratories. The working group consists of at least seventeen members, including at least six from counties outside of Honolulu.

To carry out this request, the Department anticipates that funds will be needed to cover the costs for airfare and ground transportation for representatives from the other counties to attend all of the working group meetings, as well as the costs for a working group coordinator who will facilitate the meetings, coordinate the collection, analysis, and compilation of data, conduct or coordinate necessary research efforts, and prepare the report from the working group.

The Department has not had an opportunity to estimate the costs necessary for such an endeavor, but will attempt to do so.

The Department appreciates the Committee's consideration of this request.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org

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(vacant)
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JERRY INOUE
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WK-WK

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members:

SUBJECT: House Concurrent Resolution No. 131, Requesting the Department of the Attorney General to Establish a Working Group to Study Forensic Laboratories in the State

I am Forensic Laboratory Director Wayne Kimoto of the Scientific Investigation Section of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The resolution proposes establishment of a working group composed of the criminal justice, the state legislative and the teaching community to assess the current status of our state's forensic service delivery system and to identify the steps necessary to ensure that Hawaii will continue to receive the highest quality crime laboratory service.

The HPD would like to submit the following comment regarding the intent of House Concurrent Resolution No. 131, requesting the Department of the Attorney General to Establish a Working Group to Study Forensic Laboratories in the State:


1. The working group should consider including technical members from the forensic science community to assist with understanding the factors influencing the decision to offer certain forensic services, including the stringent quality assurance requirements of accreditation and other national standards.

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
March 23, 2017
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The mission of such a working group to assess the current status and identify the changes and resources necessary to sustain the delivery of forensic services is a necessary one.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,


Wayne Kimoto, Director
Scientific Investigation Section

APPROVED:



Cary N. Okimoto
Acting Chief of Police