



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.C.R. NO. 94, S.D. 1, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Tuesday, April 4, 2017

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Lance M. Goto,
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1160)

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

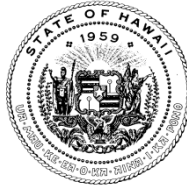
The Department of the Attorney General (the "Department") appreciates the amendments by the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs to change the final reporting deadline for the working group report from the regular session of 2018 to the regular session of 2019, and to provide for an interim report for the regular session of 2018. But the Department continues to have concerns about the lack of resources and funding to conduct the requested effort.

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 endeavor, 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 appreciates the Committees' consideration of the Department's concerns.



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

April 4, 2017
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

S.C.R. 94, S.D. 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH
A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** with amendment S.C.R. 94 S.D. 1, which requests that the Department of the Attorney General establish a working group to study forensic laboratories in the State.

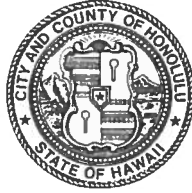
DOT is responsible for the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program in Hawaii. DREs are law enforcement officers who are specially trained in drug detection and classification. Part of the DRE process includes the request for forensic toxicology samples from their subjects for lab analysis. As such, the 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

CARY OKIMOTO
JERRY INOUE
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **WK-WK**

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Chair Tokuda and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94, S. D. 1, 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 the 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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94, S. D. 1, Requesting the Department of the Attorney General to Establish a Working Group to Study Forensic Laboratories in the State:

The working group consider including technical members from the forensic science community to assist with understanding the factors influencing the

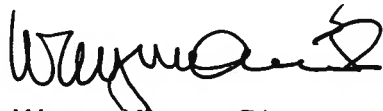
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and Members
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decision to offer certain forensic services, including the stringent quality assurance requirements of accreditation and other national standards.

The intent 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 an important one.


Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,



Wayne Kimoto, Director
Scientific Investigation Section

APPROVED:



Cary Okimoto
Acting Chief of Police