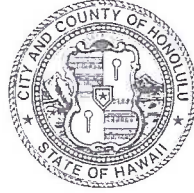


POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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LOUIS M. REALORA  
CHIEF

CARY OKIMOTO  
JERRY INOUE  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WK-WK

March 28, 2017

**LATE**

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94, 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, 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 decision to offer certain forensic services, including the stringent quality assurance requirements of accreditation and other national standards.

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
March 28, 2017  
Page 2

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.

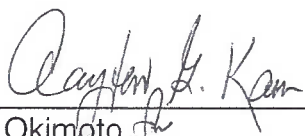
Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,



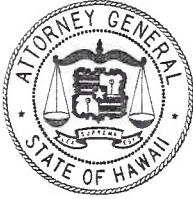
Wayne Kimoto, Director  
Scientific Investigation Section

APPROVED:



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Cary Okimoto  
Acting Chief of Police



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

**LATE**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.C.R. NO. 94 and S.R. NO. 38, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017

**TIME:** 1:20 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

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

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Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (the "Department") respectfully requests funding to support the efforts proposed by this resolution, and an amendment to change the reporting deadline from the regular session of 2018 to the regular session of 2019.

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 also respectfully requests that the reporting deadline for the working group be set for "no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019." This resolution requests that a large working group conduct a study of forensic laboratories and testing in the State, and submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018. That deadline would give the working group only five to six months to complete its study. It will be a challenging endeavor and will likely be difficult to complete prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018. The proposed amendment will give the working group a reasonable period of time to complete its tasks.

The Department appreciates the Committee's consideration of the Department requests.