



To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senate Special Committee on COVID-19

From: Mark Wasielewski, President, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.
A. Christian Whelen, PhD, Vice President and Technical Director of Microbiology,
Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.

Date: June 23, 2020

Hrg: Senate Special Committee on COVID-19; Tuesday June 23, 2020; 2:00 pm

Re: Comments on COVID-19 Testing for Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.

Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. (DLS) is Hawaii's largest locally owned and operated medical and clinical testing laboratory and an affiliate of The Queen's Health Systems. DLS has over 50 locations and provides quality services to communities throughout Hawaii, Guam and Saipan. As it relates to DLS operations, the following is a status update:

DLS's current demand for testing varies daily, but has increased significantly due to expanded use such as asymptomatic pre-operative and hospital admissions. The normal daily demand ranges between 200-500 COVID test requests. When large drive-through samplings were performed, DLS has seen in excess of 1000 COVID test requests.

DLS currently performs all testing on island using 5 different testing platforms. Major limitations are the availability of swabs, and limited extraction and/or detection (kits) for some test systems. A future limitation, in addition to consumables, could be instrument capacity if large scale employment, school, or travel related testing occurs. We have gotten many inquiries for these testing services. Our highest throughput instrument can test 1,300 specimens in a 24 hour period. We are in the process of acquiring another. Two other instruments can perform 432 and 92 tests daily, respectively. Remaining instruments are more rapid, but low throughput.

We also offer 2 antibody tests for past exposure. There is the potential for needing to test a large percentage of the state's population and tourists, although the FDA and CDC warns that these should not be used for many decisions such as active infection, immune status, infectivity, return to work/school, travel, etc. Capacity for this testing is very high. Multiple instruments can test 200 specimens per hour.

It has been suggested that additional facilities are needed to expand capacity. This is not the case. The limitation now is supplies. Another facility would just be fighting for the same shortage supplies. Increased allocation of collection and testing supplies to existing laboratories would expand capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on DLS efforts related to COVID-19 testing for our state.