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10:30 A.M.
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H.B. 1113 H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 1113 H.D. 1. This measure authorizes moneys in the state highway fund to be expended to maintain the drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory; authorizes moneys in the drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory special fund to be administered and expended by DOT or appropriated as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services Department (CCHESD) to support the laboratory; appropriates funds for the laboratory; and requires reports to the legislature.

There is an immediate need for in-state blood alcohol testing for all counties, which the CCHESD is able to provide if the agency has funding to expand its lab and resources. In addition, CCHESD may be able to conduct drug testing for impaired driving cases in the future if funding is available to support the establishment and maintenance of the laboratory.

This bill is needed to appropriate funds from the state highway fund to the special fund; provide legislative authority for DOT to administer and expend the special fund; and appropriate funds as a grant-in-aid to CCHESD to support statewide blood alcohol testing, as well as establish and maintain a drug and alcohol testing laboratory.

The DOT is primarily concerned about improving highway safety and protecting the lives of our community members and visitors. Having a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory within our State will provide law enforcement and adjudicators with the resources they need to protect our public from impaired drivers.

The DOT urges your support of H.B. 1113 H.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.