



**TESTIMONY BY:**  
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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 28, 2023  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 1411, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 1411 S.D. 1. This measure amends references to the State Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund; and appropriates funds to the DOT Highways Division to deposit state highway funds to the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund.

There is an immediate need for in-state blood alcohol testing for all counties, which the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services Department (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.

We respectfully request the following amendments to the bill:

- Page 19, lines 20-21 – Amend the sentence to read “The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of transportation or appropriated as a grant-in-aid to the city and county of Honolulu emergency services department for the purposes of this Act.”
- Page 20, line 10 – Replace “department of health” with “department of transportation”

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 S.B. 1411 S.D. 1.

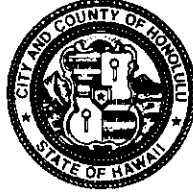
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814  
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**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



JAMES H.E. IRELAND, M.D.  
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE, MPA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 211  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: SB 1411, SD1 Relating to the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members on the Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding SB 1411, SD1. This measure would amend references to the State Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund and appropriate funds to the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund.

I have been with the City and County Health Services Branch for 19 years and I am currently the Branch Chief. Starting as a Medical Technologist and working my way to Branch Chief, I understand the challenges of working in a small office with a high workload.

The legal DUI program was started over 30 years ago with the Oahu County only. The program has faced many challenges through the years. Although staffing and funding were among the highest challenges, necessity was never an issue. This program serves to provide valuable, quantifiable data for both plaintiffs and defendants. Results are rarely challenged. Solid testimony was always key.

During the beginning of the pandemic, the only other laboratory performing legal alcohol testing decided that this service was no longer profitable and gave notice to the different counties that an alternate testing site would be needed. The counties turned to the City and County of Honolulu Health Services Branch to take on the workload. Being the only testing facility in the State, we took on this hefty task. Unfortunately, the workload was too heavy for my sole Medical Technologist on staff and she left within

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
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two years of the increased workload. I do not want to see this happen to any more of my staff.

Because of this, I am in very strong support of SB 1411, SD1. This measure will allow the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation to provide much needed funds to the City and County of Honolulu's Health Services Branch to continue state-wide coverage for the legal DUI program. These funds will enable Health Services to hire additional personnel to provide adequate services statewide or purchase much needed equipment and supplies.

I would also note that currently, Health Services only provides legal alcohol testing for the counties. While we are in working to develop an agreement to include other types of drug testing, an agreement has not been made at this time. Therefore, and drug testing will remain as a send-out to the mainland for the time being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Perry', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karla R. Perry, Branch Chief  
Health Services Branch

**SB-1411-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 10:17:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: This bill will tremendously benefit drug testing for our police agencies agencies related to traffic crashes, fatal and non-fatal. No doubt, a larger undertaking that have been discussed for at least two (2) decades.