



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1526-SD2-HD1
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY
REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 3/27/2025, Time: 2:00 pm and Room Number: 308

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined. The Department of Health ("Department") requests that
- 2 this measure be considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not
- 3 supplant the priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.
- 4 **Department Position:** The Department of Health offers support.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The State Laboratories Division (SLD) provides the following testimony
- 6 on behalf of the Department.
- 7 Department of Health supports this measure.
- 8 **Offered Amendments:** NONE
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1526, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY
Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 1526, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1. This bill extends the lapse date for funds appropriated out of the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the establishment and maintenance of a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory.

The extension of these funds is critical to the ongoing operations and development of the toxicology testing laboratory, which serves as an essential resource in the DLE's efforts to combat drug and alcohol-related offenses. This laboratory provides timely and accurate toxicology testing that is vital for criminal investigations, prosecutions, and overall public safety.

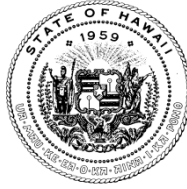
Maintaining dedicated funding for the toxicology laboratory ensures that the DLE can continue to process evidence efficiently, reduce testing backlogs, and provide crucial forensic support to law enforcement agencies across the state. Without this extension,

the department would face significant challenges in maintaining these essential services.

The specialized testing capabilities of this laboratory are particularly important given the increasing complexity of drug-related cases, including those involving synthetic substances and new psychoactive compounds that require sophisticated detection methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 27, 2025
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

S.B. 1526 S.D. 2 H.D.1
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY

House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** S.B. 1526 S.D. 2 H.D.1, which extends the lapse date for funds appropriated out of the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the establishment and maintenance of a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory.

More time is needed to establish an in-state drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory, which includes hiring personnel; procuring instruments; developing Standard Operating Procedures, methodologies, etc.; and attaining accreditations and certifications.

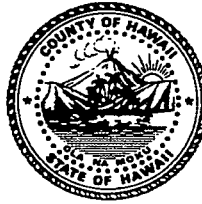
HDOT is primarily concerned about improving highway safety and protecting the lives of our community members and visitors. Having a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory within our State will provide law enforcement and adjudicators with the resources they need to protect our public from impaired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

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor

William V. Brilhante Jr.
Managing Director



Benjamin T. Moszkowicz
Police Chief

Reed K. Mahuna
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

March 24, 2025

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
And Committee Members
Committee on Finance
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: SENATE BILL 1526, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY
TESTING LABORATORY
HEARING DATE: MARCH 27, 2025
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

Dear Representatives Yamashita and Takenouchi,

The Hawai'i Police Department **strongly supports** Senate Bill 1526 SD2 HD1 for extending the timeline for the establishment and maintenance of a state laboratory for drug and alcohol testing, as outlined in this Act. The creation of such a facility is essential for enhancing the health and safety of our communities. A state-run laboratory will ensure that toxicology testing services are consistent, timely, and accurate across all counties, which is critical in law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving. By providing a centralized, state-of-the-art facility for drug and alcohol testing, we can ensure a more efficient process for law enforcement agencies, which will improve public safety and promote justice in OVUII cases.

We recognize the importance of allotting the necessary time to properly plan, build, and equip the laboratory. This extension will allow for the development of an administrative framework that supports effective operations statewide. The extended timeline will ensure that the laboratory meets the needs of all counties while maintaining the highest standards of reliability. We fully support this critical infrastructure development and believe it will greatly enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to address impaired driving across Hawai'i, ultimately leading to safer roads for all residents.

We urge this committee **to approve** this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to Senate Bill 1526 SD2 HD1.

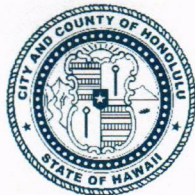
Sincerely,


BENJAMIN T. MOSZKOWICZ
POLICE CHIEF

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE CM-KK

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1526, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to the Drug and Alcohol
Toxicology Testing Laboratory

I am Cathy Matsuoka, Forensic Laboratory Director of the Scientific Investigation
Section of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 1526, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to the Drug and
Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory.


This bill extends the lapse date for funds allocated for the establishment and
maintenance of a drug and alcohol toxicology laboratory. The creation of this laboratory
will significantly strengthen law enforcement's effort to combat impaired driving
statewide. Extending the funding timeline will provide the Department of Health with
sufficient time to establish and implement the laboratory's infrastructure.

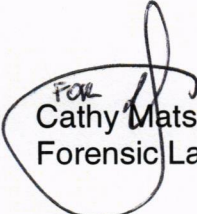
The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1526, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to
the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Cathy Matsuoka
Forensic Laboratory Director

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

SHANNON M. KAGAWA
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1526 SD 2 HD 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING LABORATORY

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Morimaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 1526 SD2 HD1.

This bill was drafted with the intent to extend the lapse date for funds appropriated out of the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the establishment and maintenance of a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory.

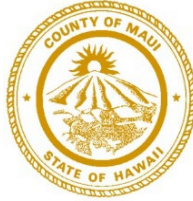
At present, blood and urine samples in certain DUI cases are tested by laboratories situated outside of Hawaii. When these test results are used in court cases, the expenses can quickly escalate, as the prosecution is often forced to issue subpoenas to experts and lab staff to testify. This becomes especially costly when the required witnesses are from out-of-state laboratories, as it involves not only their fees but also travel and accommodation arrangements. Additionally, there are situations that Non-Hawai'i witnesses may encounter travel disruptions, such as canceled flights or inclement weather, which could prevent them from attending hearings and further delay the legal process. This situation adds a considerable financial and logistical burden to DUI cases, making the entire process more expensive and complicated.

The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney remains committed to pursuing justice with integrity and commitment. For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 1526 SD2 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Prosecuting Attorney

SHELLY C. MIYASHIRO
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
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TESTIMONY ON
S.B. 1526 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND
ALCOHOL TESTING LABORATORY

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita
Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 1526 SD2 HD1, Relating to The Drug and Alcohol Testing Laboratory**. This bill extends the lapse date for funds appropriated for the establishment and maintenance of a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory.

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui supports this bill because current testing of blood and urine samples in some DUI cases is performed by laboratories located outside of Hawaii. Court cases involving these test results can become extremely costly when the prosecution is required to subpoena experts and lab personnel to testify in court, especially if these witnesses are from laboratories located out of state and require travel and lodging arrangements. Non-Hawai'i witnesses also run the risk of flights being canceled and weather disturbances preventing travel to hearings.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 1526 SD2 HD1**. Please feel free to contact our office at (808) 270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

House Committee on Finance

03/27/2025 2:00PM

CR 308 & Videoconference

SB 1526 SD2 HD1

Relating to the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB1526 SD2 HD1** which extends the lapse date for funds appropriated out of the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory Special Fund for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the establishment and maintenance of a drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory.

Data produced by the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) indicates that between 2016-2020, nearly one-third of all traffic deaths in Hawaii involved alcohol; an alarming statistic exceeding the national average. This bill would help us achieve our goal of reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero, as outlined in our 2050 long-range plan, specifically related to our objective of reducing dangerous driving behaviors.

Allowing more time to establish an in-state drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory, including hiring necessary personnel, procuring equipment, developing Standard Operating Procedures, and attaining necessary accreditations and certifications will assist in provide law enforcement and adjudicators with the resources they need to protect our public from impaired drivers.

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.