



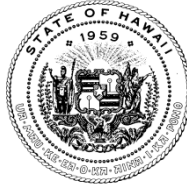
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1526-SD2
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY
REPRESENTATIVE DARIUS K. KILA, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: 3/18/2025, Time: 10:00 am and Room Number: 430

- 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



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

March 18, 2025
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 430

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

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** S.B. 1526 S.D. 2, 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.

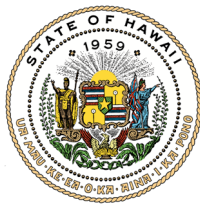
More time is needed to establish an in-state drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory, which includes hiring personnel; procuring instruments; developing Standard Operating Procedures, methodologies, etc.; and attaining accreditations and certifications.

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.

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
RELATING TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY TESTING LABORATORY
Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION
Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 1526, Senate Draft 2, 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 from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

The bill extends the timeline for establishing and maintaining a state drug and alcohol toxicology testing laboratory, which is a critical component of law enforcement infrastructure across the state. This three-year extension will provide the necessary time to complete the building, equipping, and establishment of this essential facility.

A centralized toxicology testing laboratory operated at the state level will significantly enhance the DLE's investigative capabilities by ensuring consistent, timely, and accurate toxicology testing across all counties. Currently, inconsistencies in testing methods, processing times, and availability of services between jurisdictions create challenges for law enforcement operations, criminal prosecutions, and public safety

efforts.

The establishment of this laboratory will particularly strengthen our ability to detect and analyze dangerous substances such as fentanyl, xylazine, and other emerging drug threats that pose significant public safety risks. Our experience with these substances has shown that accurate and rapid toxicology testing is vital for both investigative purposes and for preventing fatal overdoses.

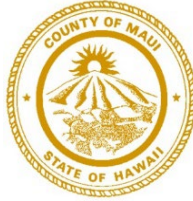
The DLE recognizes that building such a specialized facility requires significant planning, coordination with multiple agencies, procurement of advanced equipment, hiring of qualified personnel, and establishment of administrative frameworks that meet rigorous scientific standards. The extension of the funding lapse date is therefore prudent and necessary to ensure the successful implementation of this important project.

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

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
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793
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TESTIMONY ON
S.B. 1526 SD2
RELATING TO THE DRUG AND
ALCOHOL TESTING LABORATORY

March 15, 2025

The Honorable Darius K. Kila
Chair
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, 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, 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**. 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.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Benjamin T. Moszkowicz
Police Chief

William V. Brilhante Jr.
Managing Director

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 17, 2025

Representative Darius K. Kila
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Kila:

RE: SENATE BILL 1526 SD2; RELATING TO THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TOXICOLOGY
TESTING LABORATORY.
HEARING DATE: MARCH 18, 2025
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

The Hawai'i Police Department **strongly supports** Senate Bill 1526 SD2 for extending the timeline for the development and implementation 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.

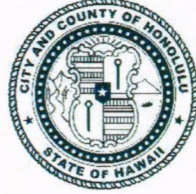
It is for these reasons, we urge this committee **to approve** this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to Senate Bill 1526 SD2.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN T. MOSZKOWICZ
POLICE CHIEF

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 18, 2025

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 430
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kila and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1526, S.D. 2, 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, 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, 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



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

House Committee on Transportation

03/18/2025 10:00AM

CR 430 & Videoconference

SB 1526 SD2

Relating to the Drug and Alcohol Toxicology Testing Laboratory

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB1526 SD2** 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.