



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2515, HD1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS  
REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: 2/16/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

- 1       • **Fiscal Implications:** A new facility constructed on the Pearl City Waimano  
2       Home Road campus to house DUI (driving under the influence), drinking  
3       water, general environmental, and infectious diseases related testing. This  
4       facility would be state of the art and constructed for withstanding and  
5       continuing to operate despite a force 3 hurricane. Solar power would be part  
6       of the design. Expected staffing would be 50 persons, but 40 of these would  
7       be current staff so only 10 would be new staff members. Cost estimates  
8       include:  
9       • \$100 million for construction plus \$10 million for equipment.  
10      • Annual costs would be:  
11        ○ \$1 million for personnel costs  
12        ○ \$250, 000 for reagents, supplies, test kits, etc.  
13        ○ \$1 million for equipment service contracts  
14        ○ \$600,000 per year for utilities costs  
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- 16      • A new facility constructed on the Pearl City Waimano Home Road campus  
17      to house DUI, drinking water, and general environmental testing, but not  
18      infectious diseases related testing. Again, a state of the art facility able to  
19      withstand a hurricane and incorporating solar power. Expected staffing  
20      would be 25 persons, but only 10 of these would be new staff. Cost  
21      estimates would include:  
22      • \$50 million for construction plus \$5 million for equipment.

- 1           • Annual costs would be:
  - 2               ○\$1 million for personnel costs
  - 3               ○\$200,000 for reagents, supplies, test kits, etc.
  - 4               ○\$500,000 for equipment service contracts
  - 5               ○\$300,000 per year for utilities costs

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7   **Department Testimony:** The current State laboratory building is approximately 27  
8 years old. It was not designed to accommodate new/current demands for testing.  
9 It has a central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system which due to its  
10 age can be expected to fail periodically, causing all laboratory testing to have to  
11 stop until repairs are made. The availability of a second building with separate  
12 (and more up to date) HVAC could enable testing to continue in the event of an  
13 HVAC failure in the old building.

14 When the older State laboratory building was designed, current testing needs  
15 were not envisioned and planned for. Testing of samples from drivers suspected  
16 of DUI was not envisioned. Nor was there a vision of the volumes of water testing  
17 now required for assuring safe drinking water after potential fuel contamination  
18 of an important aquifer. Infectious diseases testing was also very different at the  
19 time when the infectious diseases laboratories in the current older building were  
20 designed. There has been a move from cultures to molecular studies, requiring  
21 specialized molecular biology laboratories. Another fundamental shift in  
22 laboratory testing was based on the need to test for agents of bioterrorism post  
23 9/11. This creates demand for Biosafety level 3 and 3+ suites to enable staff to  
24 work safely without endangering the community.

25  
26 Please note that the staff working in the new building would be mostly existing  
27 staff. Additional staff would focus mainly on increased water testing required by  
28 contaminated aquifer or aquifers, plus expanded wastewater testing.

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1 The larger building option would permit essential functions to be moved to the  
2 new building while the older building is refurbished, enabling the State laboratory  
3 to perform its critical functions uninterrupted for several decades.

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5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2515, H.D. 1

**February 16, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 329 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2515, H.D. 1, amends Chapter 321, HRS, to add a new section to require the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and operate a laboratory capable of testing for diseases and air and water quality issues, and other high complexity testing; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to DOH to establish and operate the testing laboratory.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

# BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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HONOLULU, HI 96843  
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February 16, 2022

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329 and Videoconference  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2515 HD 1: Relating to the Department of Health

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 2515 HD 1.

This bill directs the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and operate a laboratory capable of testing for diseases and air and water quality issues and other high complexity testing.

The testing capability being directed in this measure is appropriate and should be placed within the DOH organization to support its regulatory authority to protect human health and the environment. DOH can ensure that the laboratory is capable of achieving the highest level of accreditation, detecting the lowest levels of constituents of concern, and servicing the demand of the community both in terms of volume and turnaround time.

Thank you for opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

**HB-2515-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 3:40:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

Comment: Since there are civilians that have been impacted by the water contamination, it would behoove the department to also have a toxicology division for analyzing any health symptoms arising from the consumption when other tests are limited and inconclusive.

Given the contaminants found from the leak, Hawaii citizens deserve a lab that can also detect other anomalies. A toxicology division would also support the intent of this bill.,

**LATE**

**HB-2515-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 3:54:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Our Department of Health is Full of Crap. They were pushing this pandemic thing that was all Fake just to get payed of by the Big Pharma Compaines. When the people learn of what you did them You will not be able to walk down the street. Thankfully all this info is come out proving that what you did was wrong and that you people the Government are responsible for all the People who died or are now disabled. This is the Department of Health and the Govener and Lt Govener and the legislative body who are responsible. You did not Protect the People you through them under the Bus so you could pocket Big money from Big Pharma!!!