

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2515, HD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 03/16/2022

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.

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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

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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2515, H.D. 2

March 16, 2022
1:05 p.m.
Room 225 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. 2, 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

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
March 16, 2022

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225 & Videoconference
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: House Bill 2515, HD2: Relating to the Department of Health

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 2515, House Draft (HD) 2.

This bill directs the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and operate a laboratory capable of, among other things, high-complexity water quality testing. This testing capability 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 in support of HB2515, HD2.

Very truly yours,



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

HB-2515-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:36:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/16/2022 1:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerard Silva | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The Dept of Health screwd up the Hole covid thing . They are not Capable of running any Lab.!!