William P. Kenoi *Mayor*

14. Jan 19. 18.



Harry S. Kubojiri Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai'i

POLICE DEPARTMENT 349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998 (808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

January 28, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee Chairperson and Committee Members Committee On Judiciary and Labor 415 South Beretania Street, Room 016 Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1014 Relating to Forensic Identification

Dear Senator Hee:

The Hawai'i Police Department strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 1014, and its intended purpose which is to amend Section 844D-111, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), in order to clarify the grading of the offense for refusing to provide a required blood specimen, buccal swab sample, or print impression for forensic identification by making it a class C felony offense.

We believe this legislation is necessary in order to ensure that those persons who are mandated by law to provide specimens for forensic identification and who have been provided written notification are held to that requirement. In that all persons in Hawai`i convicted of a felony offense are required to provide these forensic specimens, we believe it necessary that failure to do so will result in an additional felony offense. Our belief is predicated upon the fact that persons convicted of a felony will be less likely to provide the sample under the threat of a misdemeanor prosecution.

We further believe that when a convicted felon is provided with written notification to provide a forensic sample and fails to comply, this is an intentional and knowing act and thus worthy of felony prosecution.

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 1014.

Sincerely,

Y S. KUBO

POLICE CHIEF

"Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"