

MAR 10 2017

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A  
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY FORENSIC LABORATORIES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, forensic science is the process of using science  
2 to resolve legal issues; and  
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4 WHEREAS, forensic science may involve the application of  
5 various fields of science, including anthropology, biology,  
6 chemistry, engineering, genetics, medicine, pathology, voice  
7 analysis, psychiatry, and toxicology to matters involving law  
8 enforcement; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department's Scientific  
11 Investigation Section includes the only full-service forensic  
12 laboratory in the State; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the Scientific Investigation Section's forensic  
15 laboratory is commonly referred to as the "crime lab"; and  
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17 WHEREAS, other law enforcement agencies in the State have  
18 more limited facilities and trained staff available for the  
19 application of forensic science; and  
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21 WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to improve the  
22 application of forensic science for law enforcement purposes in  
23 the State; now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,  
27 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to  
28 establish a working group to study forensic laboratories in the  
29 State; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
32 to include representatives from the Federal Bureau of



1 Investigation, the Department of Public Safety, the Judiciary,  
2 the police department of each county, the office of the  
3 prosecutor of each county, the Office of the Public Defender,  
4 criminal defense attorneys, the Hawaii State Bar Association,  
5 the American Civil Liberties Union, state legislators, and a  
6 professor of forensic science from Chaminade University; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
9 to study the capabilities, staffing levels, case loads, and task  
10 completion times of forensic laboratories in the State; and  
11 accreditation requirements and other issues related to the  
12 operation of forensic laboratories; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
15 to specifically analyze the following issues:  
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- 17 (1) The number of forensic tests conducted annually by the  
18 Honolulu Police Department and other crime  
19 laboratories in this State;  
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- 21 (2) The sources of requests to the Honolulu Police  
22 Department and other crimes laboratories in this State  
23 for forensic testing;  
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- 25 (3) The number of requests to the Honolulu Police  
26 Department and other crime laboratories in this State  
27 from state agencies for forensic testing;  
28
- 29 (4) Methods in which the Honolulu Police Department sends  
30 evidence to other states for forensic testing;  
31
- 32 (5) The number of times each year that the Honolulu Police  
33 Department sends evidence to other states for forensic  
34 testing;  
35
- 36 (6) The costs for forensic testing that is conducted in  
37 other states for the Honolulu Police Department;  
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- 39 (7) Additional costs related to forensic testing,  
40 including costs for experts from other states to



travel to this State to testify as prosecution witnesses;

(8) Any projected increases in costs for forensic testing in this State;

(9) The sources of funding for DNA testing of felons who are convicted in this State; and

(10) The sources of funding for equipping and operating forensic laboratories in this State and in other states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to provide a report, including any findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, through the Attorney General, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Public Safety, the Judiciary, the police department of each county, the office of the prosecutor of each county, the Office of the Public Defender, the Hawaii State Bar Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Chaminade University.

OFFERED BY:

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