



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.C.R. NO. 194 AND H.R. NO. 174, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE IF XYLAZINE TESTING STRIPS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE STATE'S DEFINITION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Michelle M.L. Puu, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) opposes these resolutions as written but supports amending them to request that the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) conduct the desired study.

The resolutions, as currently written, request the Department to conduct a study to determine whether xylazine testing strips should be excluded from the State's definition of drug paraphernalia. The requested report on this study would be due to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025.

To adequately address the Legislature's request, the proposed study would require extensive data gathering, surveys, research, and analysis of statistical data. The anticipated utilization of statistical data gathering and analysis goes beyond the purview of the Department. The Department also lacks the necessary resources and scientific expertise to complete such a comprehensive study on this multifaceted issue.

The DLE, however, does have the resources and expertise to conduct this study and has expressed interest in doing so. The Department fully supports the DLE in this endeavor.

Therefore, we respectfully request that all references to the Department be removed from the resolutions and replaced with references to the DLE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.