
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that advances in forensic
2 technology allow law enforcement agencies, in partnership with
3 accredited public crime laboratories, to generate a
4 deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) profile from a crime-scene sample in
5 approximately ninety minutes, enabling same-day suspect
6 identification or the exoneration of innocent individuals,
7 compared to the weeks or months required under traditional
8 laboratory processing.

9 The legislature also finds that at least nine other states
10 have adopted statewide rapid DNA programs based on this new DNA
11 technology. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's recent
12 decision to permit Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) searches
13 using qualifying rapid DNA profiles supports state-level
14 implementation. The legislature believes that establishing a
15 statewide program in Hawaii will strengthen public safety,
16 promote timely justice, help prevent wrongful arrests, and



1 support disaster victim identification in mass casualty or
2 natural disaster events.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish within the police
4 department of the city and county of Honolulu a rapid DNA
5 investigative lead program.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 844D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
8 to read as follows:

9 **"PART . RAPID DNA TESTING**

10 **§844D- Rapid DNA testing standards.** (a) The
11 department shall adopt any necessary rules, policies,
12 procedures, and forms to support the State's participation in a
13 rapid DNA investigative lead program, a statewide program for
14 law enforcement agencies, facilitating the collection and
15 processing of crime scene samples utilizing rapid DNA
16 instrumentation.

17 (b) The department may:

18 (1) Specify program parameters and procedures, including
19 technical and practical procedures, for law
20 enforcement agencies concerning the training,



1 maintenance, and use of rapid DNA instruments
2 throughout the State;

5 (A) Testing sites;

6 (B) Training and certification requirements;

7 (C) Quality assurance and audit standards; and

8 (D) Data security and privacy protections.

9 S844D- Rapid DNA testing; administration; limitations.

10 (a) The department may use rapid DNA technology for limited,
11 constitutionally authorized purposes, including producing
12 investigative leads, exonerating innocent individuals, and
13 identifying disaster victims.

14 (b) Rapid DNA results obtained pursuant to this part shall
15 not be used as the sole basis for an arrest or prosecution
16 unless otherwise permitted by law.

17 (c) In administering this part, the department shall
18 protect civil liberties and ensure that the collection, use,
19 secondary use, and retention of rapid DNA test results are
20 conducted in a constitutionally authorized manner.



7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
10 equipment, training, laboratory capacity, consumables, program
11 administration, and other costs necessary to implement and
12 sustain the DNA investigative lead program established pursuant
13 to this Act.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Honolulu
15 police department for purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 21 2026



H.B. NO. 1746

Report Title:

HPD; Forensic Identification; Law Enforcement; Information; Rapid DNA; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Honolulu Police Department a rapid DNA investigative lead program. Appropriates moneys.

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