
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the National
2 Institute of Drug Abuse defines drug checking as "a harm
3 reduction practice in which people check to see if drugs contain
4 certain substances". Drug checking methods range from tools
5 such as fentanyl test strips, which may be used in any setting
6 where drugs are used, to more advanced technologies, including
7 infrared spectrometry, which are typically conducted at on-site
8 facilities such as syringe service programs. The National
9 Institute of Drug Abuse supports research to improve the
10 accuracy, accessibility, and effectiveness of drug checking
11 technologies, including smartphone- and internet-based services,
12 mobile facilities, and programs that offer overdose response and
13 education.

14 The legislature further finds that substantial research and
15 evidence highlight the effectiveness, long-standing use, and
16 public health value of drug checking services. A May 2024 study
17 published in the *Harm Reduction Journal* emphasizes the



1 effectiveness of drug checking services in reducing risks
2 associated with substance use, including overdose, and
3 identifies benefits at the individual, community, public health,
4 and health system levels. The study urges policymakers to
5 consider allocating resources for the implementation and
6 expansion of drug checking services in areas affected by
7 overdose mortality.

8 A September 2024 evidence brief issued by the Canadian
9 Centre on Substance Use and Addiction reports that drug checking
10 has been used to monitor unregulated drug supplies for more than
11 fifty years and identifies thirty-one drug checking services
12 operating across twenty countries. The evidence brief
13 identifies benefits of drug checking which include reducing
14 risks associated with substance use, including overdose;
15 improving clinical care, including by informing care plans and
16 medication choices among clinicians and nursing professionals;
17 increasing access to health and social services by facilitating
18 trust and connection between underserved populations and service
19 providers; monitoring drug-related trends to inform public
20 health and safety decisions; and reducing costs associated with
21 emergency medical services and hospitalization.



1 The legislature also finds that, in recent years, illicit
2 street drugs in Hawaii have been found to contain unspecified
3 quantities of fentanyl, xylazine, medetomidine, and other
4 substances, posing serious risks of accidental overdose. In
5 response to increasing fentanyl-related overdoses, the
6 legislature passed Act 111, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, which
7 exempted fentanyl testing strips from the definition of drug
8 paraphernalia under the uniform controlled substances act.

9 While fentanyl test strips are an important tool, they only
10 detect the presence of fentanyl. Other drug checking tools,
11 including chemical reagents, can detect the presence of
12 additional substances. More advanced tools, including
13 spectrometers, currently used by harm reduction service
14 providers in Chicago and New York City, can both detect and
15 quantify the substances present in a sample.

16 The legislature believes that providing individuals,
17 service providers, and communities with accurate information
18 regarding the presence and concentration of substances in
19 illicit drugs will reduce accidental and fatal overdoses.



1 The purpose of this Act is to exempt additional drug
2 checking tools from the definition of drug paraphernalia under
3 the uniform controlled substances act.

4 SECTION 2. Section 329-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending the definition of "drug paraphernalia" to
6 read as follows:

7 ""Drug paraphernalia" means all equipment, products, and
8 materials of any kind that are used, primarily intended for use,
9 or primarily designed for use, in planting, propagating,
10 cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding,
11 converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing,
12 analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing,
13 concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise
14 introducing into the human body a controlled substance in
15 violation of this chapter. [~~Drug paraphernalia~~] For the
16 purposes of this definition:

17 (1) "Drug paraphernalia" includes but is not limited to:

18 [~~(1)~~] (A) Kits used, primarily intended for use, or
19 primarily designed for use in planting, propagating,
20 cultivating, growing, or harvesting of any species of



1 plant that is a controlled substance or from which a
2 prohibited controlled substance can be derived;

3 ~~[(+2)]~~ (B) Kits used, primarily intended for use, or
4 primarily designed for use in manufacturing,
5 compounding, converting, producing, processing, or
6 preparing prohibited controlled substances;

7 ~~[(+3)]~~ (C) Isomerization devices used, primarily intended
8 for use, or primarily designed for use in increasing
9 the potency of any species of plant that is a
10 prohibited controlled substance;

11 ~~[(+4)]~~ (D) Testing equipment used, primarily intended for
12 use, or primarily designed for use in identifying, or
13 in analyzing the strength, effectiveness, or purity of
14 prohibited controlled substances;

15 ~~[(+5)]~~ (E) Scales and balances used, primarily intended for
16 use, or primarily designed for use in weighing or
17 measuring prohibited controlled substances;

18 ~~[(+6)]~~ (F) Diluents and adulterants; such as quinine
19 hydrochloride, mannitol, mannite, dextrose, and
20 lactose, used, primarily intended for use, or



1 primarily designed for use in cutting prohibited
2 controlled substances;

3 ~~[(7)]~~ (G) Separation gins and sifters used, primarily
4 intended for use, or primarily designed for use in
5 removing twigs and seeds from, or in otherwise
6 cleaning or refining, prohibited marijuana;

7 ~~[(8)]~~ (H) Blenders, bowls, containers, spoons, and mixing
8 devices used, primarily intended for use, or primarily
9 designed for use in compounding prohibited controlled
10 substances;

11 ~~[(9)]~~ (I) Capsules, balloons, envelopes, and other
12 containers used, primarily intended for use, or
13 primarily designed for use in packaging small
14 quantities of prohibited controlled substances;

15 ~~[(10)]~~ (J) Containers and other objects used, primarily
16 intended for use, or primarily designed for use in
17 storing or concealing prohibited controlled
18 substances;

19 ~~[(11)]~~ (K) Hypodermic syringes, needles, and other objects
20 used, primarily intended for use, or primarily



1 designed for use in parenterally injecting prohibited
2 controlled substances into the human body;

3 ~~[(12)]~~ (L) Objects used, primarily intended for use, or
4 primarily designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or
5 otherwise introducing prohibited marijuana, cocaine,
6 hashish, hashish oil, or methamphetamine into the
7 human body, such as:

8 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) Metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone,
9 plastic, or ceramic pipes with or without
10 screens, permanent screens, hashish heads, or
11 punctured metal bowls;

12 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) Water pipes;

13 ~~[(C)]~~ (iii) Carburetion tubes and devices;

14 ~~[(D)]~~ (iv) Smoking and carburetion masks;

15 ~~[(E)]~~ (v) Roach clips: meaning objects used to hold
16 burning materials, such as marijuana cigarettes,
17 that have become too small or too short to be
18 held in the hand;

19 ~~[(F)]~~ (vi) Miniature cocaine spoons, and cocaine
20 vials;

21 ~~[(G)]~~ (vii) Chamber pipes;



1 ~~[(H)]~~ (viii) Carburetor pipes;
2 ~~[(I)]~~ (ix) Electric pipes;
3 ~~[(J)]~~ (x) Air-driven pipes;
4 ~~[(K)]~~ (xi) Chillums;
5 ~~[(L)]~~ (xii) Bongs; and
6 ~~[(M)]~~ (xiii) Ice pipes or chillers~~[-]~~;

7 (2) In determining whether an object is drug
8 paraphernalia, a court or other authority should
9 consider, in addition to all other logically relevant
10 factors, the following:

11 ~~[(1)]~~ (A) Statements by an owner or anyone in control of
12 the object concerning its use;

13 ~~[(2)]~~ (B) Prior convictions, if any, of an owner, or of
14 anyone in control of the object, under any state or
15 federal law relating to any controlled substance;

16 ~~[(3)]~~ (C) The proximity of the object, in time and space,
17 to a direct violation of this chapter;

18 ~~[(4)]~~ (D) The proximity of the object to controlled
19 substances;

20 ~~[(5)]~~ (E) The existence of any residue of controlled
21 substances on the object;



1 ~~[(6)]~~ (F) Direct or circumstantial evidence of the intent
2 of an owner, or of anyone in control of the object, to
3 deliver it to a person or persons whom the owner or
4 person in control knows, or should reasonably know,
5 intend to use the object to facilitate a violation of
6 this chapter; provided that the innocence of an owner,
7 or of anyone in control of the object, as to a direct
8 violation of this chapter shall not prevent a finding
9 that the object is intended for use, or designed for
10 use, as drug paraphernalia;

11 ~~[(7)]~~ (G) Instructions, oral or written, provided with the
12 object concerning its use;

13 ~~[(8)]~~ (H) Descriptive materials accompanying the object
14 that explain or depict its use;

15 ~~[(9)]~~ (I) National and local advertising concerning its
16 use;

17 ~~[(10)]~~ (J) The manner in which the object is displayed for
18 sale;

19 ~~[(11)]~~ (K) Whether the owner, or anyone in control of the
20 object, is a legitimate supplier of like or related



1 items to the community, such as a licensed distributor
2 or dealer of tobacco products;

3 ~~[-(12)-]~~ (L) Direct or circumstantial evidence of the ratio of
4 sales of the object or objects to the total sales of
5 the business enterprise;

6 ~~[-(13)-]~~ (M) The existence and scope of legitimate uses for
7 the object in the community; and

8 ~~[-(14)-]~~ (N) Expert testimony concerning its use~~[-]~~; and

9 (3) "Drug paraphernalia" does not include testing products
10 utilized in determining whether a controlled substance
11 contains chemicals, toxic substances, or hazardous
12 compounds in quantities that can cause physical harm
13 or death, including but not limited to fentanyl test
14 strips[-], chemical reagents, and spectrometers."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18 INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 15 2026



H.B. NO. 1550

Report Title:

Uniform Controlled Substances Act; Drug Paraphernalia; Drug Testing Products

Description:

Excludes drug testing products from the definition of drug paraphernalia under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

