

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "DNA Match Notification, Tracking, and Accountability Act".

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 844D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new subpart to part VIII to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 " . Automated DNA Match Tracking System

7 **§844D-A Definitions.** As used in this subpart:

8 "Automated DNA match tracking system" means the electronic,
9 centralized platform for the recording, monitoring, and
10 reporting of DNA match notifications and subsequent
11 investigative or prosecutorial actions established by section
12 844D-B.

13 "Crime laboratory" means any laboratory accredited to
14 perform forensic DNA analysis for criminal justice purposes.

15 "DNA database match" means any confirmed association
16 reported by a crime laboratory between a DNA profile from an
17 evidentiary sample and a known individual or another evidentiary



1 sample in a government-operated DNA database, including the
2 FBI's Combined DNA Index System or any state or local DNA index.

3 "Notifying agency" means the crime laboratory issuing the
4 DNA database match notification.

5 "Receiving agency" means any law enforcement,
6 prosecutorial, or investigative agency designated to receive DNA
7 match notifications.

8 **§844D-B Automated DNA match tracking system;**
9 **establishment; requirements; reports.** (a) No later than
10 July 1, 2027, the department shall establish and maintain a
11 statewide automated DNA match tracking system.

12 (b) The automated DNA match tracking system shall:

13 (1) Be electronic and cloud-based;

14 (2) Receive DNA match notifications from all crime
15 laboratories, whether public or private, that serve
16 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies
17 that have been approved by the department;

18 (3) Automatically route notifications and reminders to
19 designated receiving agencies;

20 (4) Record and timestamp subsequent actions taken by
21 receiving agencies and flag notifications for



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- 1 supervisory review upon missed deadlines or
2 inactivity;
- 3 (5) Produce audit logs, compliance reports, and
4 performance metrics; and
- 5 (6) Ensure data security consistent with applicable
6 privacy and information-security laws.
- 7 (c) The department may:
- 8 (1) Purchase a commercial off-the-shelf software system;
9 provided that the system meets the requirements of
10 subsection (b); and
- 11 (2) Apply for federal funding to establish and maintain
12 the tracking system.
- 13 (d) The department shall:
- 14 (1) Submit an annual report to the legislature no later
15 than twenty days prior to the convening of each
16 regular session containing:
- 17 (A) The total number of automated DNA database
18 matches;
- 19 (B) The average time from notification to the first
20 recorded action;



1 (C) The number of overdue or unaddressed
2 notifications; and

3 (D) Any recommendations for improving performance;
4 and

5 (2) Post a copy of the report required by paragraph (1) on
6 the department's public website.

7 (e) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
8 to effectuate the purposes of this subpart.

9 **§844D-C Automated DNA match tracking system;**
10 **participation; oversight; compliance.** (a) Each law enforcement
11 agency and prosecuting attorney's office that submits DNA to a
12 crime laboratory in the State shall participate in the automated
13 DNA match tracking system.

14 (b) Each receiving agency shall designate a supervisory
15 official responsible for ensuring timely updates and addressing
16 overdue or incomplete follow-up.

17 **§844D-D Automated DNA match tracking system; match**
18 **tracking requirements.** (a) Upon confirmation of a DNA database
19 match, a notifying agency shall transmit an electronic
20 notification to the automated DNA match tracking system within
21 ten business days.



1 (b) A receiving agency shall review each DNA match
2 notification within five business days of receipt.

3 (c) Within sixty days of recording the initial match
4 review, a receiving agency shall document and update in the
5 automated DNA match tracking system:

6 (1) Whether the match is relevant to an active
7 investigation or case;

8 (2) Any investigative or prosecutorial actions taken in
9 response to the DNA match notification; and

10 (3) Any closure or declination decisions and reasonings
11 for the decisions.

12 **§844D-E Automated DNA match tracking system; privacy and**

13 **data protection.** (a) All information stored or transmitted
14 pursuant to this subpart shall be handled in accordance with any
15 applicable federal, state, or local privacy laws, including
16 limitations on dissemination of DNA information.

17 (b) Access to the automated DNA tracking system shall be
18 limited to personnel authorized by the department.

19 (c) The automated DNA tracking system shall serve only as
20 a resource for coordinated criminal justice purposes.



1 (d) Notwithstanding any other law or rule to the contrary,
2 information entered into the automated DNA tracking system shall
3 not serve as an official status of any case and shall not be
4 admissible in a criminal proceeding."

5 SECTION 3. Chapter 844D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by designating sections 844D-91 to 844D-93 as subpart A,
7 and inserting a title before section 844D-91 to read:

8 "A. Data Sharing Authority; Local DNA Laboratories; Disposal"

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a
12 grant-in-aid to the Honolulu police department for the
13 establishment of a statewide automated DNA match tracking
14 system.

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

17 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
19 begun before its effective date.

20 SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act, or the
21 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held



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1 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
2 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
3 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
4 of this Act are severable.

5 SECTION 7. In codifying the new sections added by section
6 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
7 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
8 the new sections in this Act.

9 SECTION 8. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

11

INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabband*



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Report Title:

HPD; Automated DNA Match Tracking System; Database; Forensic Information; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

By July 1, 2027, requires the Honolulu Police Department to establish and maintain a statewide automated DNA match tracking system. Requires the Department to submit an annual report to the Legislature and post the report to the Department's website. Requires each law enforcement agency and prosecuting attorney's office that submits DNA to a crime laboratory in the State to participate in the automated DNA match tracking system. Establishes mandatory deadlines for entities participating in the automated DNA match tracking system after confirmation of a DNA database match. Establishes privacy and data protection guidelines for the statewide automated DNA match tracking system. Appropriates funds.

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

