

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1550
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1550
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to exclude certain drug
testing products from the definition of drug paraphernalia under
the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health; State Health Planning and
Development Agency; Hep Free Hawaii; and Hawai'i Health & Harm
Reduction Center. Your Committee received testimony in opposition
to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that drug checking is a well-established
harm reduction practice that provides individuals and communities
with critical information about the contents of unregulated
substances, which reduces the risk of accidental overdose and
other adverse health outcomes and improves clinical care. Your
Committee further finds that illicit drugs in Hawaii increasingly
been found to contain fentanyl and other dangerous substances, and
that while fentanyl test strips are an important tool, they are
limited in scope as they are only able to detect the presence of
fentanyl. More advanced tools can both detect and quantify the



substances present in a sample. Your Committee believes that exempting additional drug checking tools, including chemical reagents and spectrometers, from the definition of drug paraphernalia, as proposed by this measure, will expand access to accurate, life-saving information without promoting substance use.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1550, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1550, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREGG TANIYAMA, Chair



