
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that deoxyribonucleic
2 acid (DNA) evidence is a powerful law enforcement tool that can
3 identify unknown suspects, connect crimes to known perpetrators,
4 and exonerate the innocent. The legislature further finds that
5 establishing standard and efficient sexual assault evidence
6 collection kit handling procedures and a statewide tracking
7 system would ensure that victims of sexual assault receive
8 accurate information that enables them to take steps to protect
9 their rights, and prevent the misplacement of kits, delays in
10 testing, and destruction of evidence.

11 It is the intent of the legislature that sexual assault
12 evidence collection kits are tested in a timely manner to
13 enhance public safety by protecting sexual assault survivors,
14 exonerating the innocent, and holding offenders accountable.

15 The purpose of this Act is to address the manner in which
16 sexual assault evidence collection kits are processed and



1 tracked and to ensure that victims of sexual assault are
2 informed of their rights under the law.

3 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
4 adding a new chapter to title 38 to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "CHAPTER

7 **SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS**

8 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

9 "Accredited and approved DNA laboratory" means a DNA
10 laboratory that:

- 11 (1) Meets the requirements of section 844D-54; and
- 12 (2) Conducts DNA analysis eligible for upload to the
13 Combined DNA Index System, as approved by its state
14 administrator.

15 "Combined DNA Index System" means the Federal Bureau of
16 Investigation's program of support for criminal justice DNA
17 databases as well as the software used to run these databases.

18 "Department" means the department of the attorney general.

19 "DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid.

20 "DNA analysis" refers to the following process:



- 1 (1) The taking of DNA samples from evidence containing DNA
2 from a known individual or DNA of unknown origin;
3 (2) The isolation of autosomal DNA to develop DNA
4 profiles; and
5 (3) The determination of the DNA test results.

6 "Eligible" means in compliance with the Federal Bureau of
7 Investigation's specific requirements for a state's
8 participation in the National DNA Index System, pursuant to the
9 DNA Identification Act, title 42 U.S.C. section 14132(b).

10 "Law enforcement agency" means a county police department.

11 "Medical forensic examination" means an examination
12 provided to a victim of a suspected sexual assault by a health
13 care provider to address medical concerns resulting from the
14 sexual assault and to collect and preserve evidence that may be
15 used in a police investigation and any subsequent prosecution.

16 "Reported sexual assault evidence collection kit" or
17 "reported kit" means a sexual assault evidence collection kit
18 for a case in which:

- 19 (1) The victim reported a sexual offense to a law
20 enforcement agency; or



1 (2) The victim reported a sexual offense to a law
2 enforcement agency and a formal complaint was
3 generated; the victim subsequently requested that the
4 complaint be withdrawn; but the victim subsequently
5 chose to reinstate the complaint.

6 "Sexual assault evidence collection kit" means a kit that
7 contains a human biological specimen or specimens collected by a
8 health care provider during a medical forensic examination from
9 the victim of a suspected criminal sexual offense.

10 "Status" refers to the location, date, and time that a
11 sexual assault evidence collection kit is transferred within the
12 chain of custody.

13 "Unreported sexual assault evidence collection kit" or
14 "unreported kit" means a sexual assault evidence collection kit
15 for a case in which:

16 (1) The victim chose not to report a sexual offense to a
17 law enforcement agency; or

18 (2) The victim reported a sexual offense to a law
19 enforcement agency and a formal complaint was
20 generated; but the complaint was subsequently
21 withdrawn at the victim's request.



1 **§ -2 Hawaii sexual assault response and training**

2 **program.** (a) The department shall establish a Hawaii sexual
3 assault response and training program that shall consist of
4 members who are directly involved with the use, management, and
5 testing of sexual assault evidence collection kits, or are
6 involved with, communicate with, or otherwise support sexual
7 assault victims, including but not limited to the respective
8 police departments of each county, the state or county Combined
9 DNA Index System administrator, the respective prosecuting
10 attorney departments of each county, and sexual assault service
11 providers.

12 (b) The Hawaii sexual assault response and training
13 program shall have regularly scheduled meetings to strengthen
14 the coordinated community response and level of quality care for
15 victims of sexual assault, and shall develop and maintain:

16 (1) Specific guidelines for all medical forensic
17 examinations in the State that shall be issued to all
18 sex assault programs and centers, county contractors,
19 and any other facilities that perform medical forensic
20 examinations;



- 1 (2) A protocol for the collection of forensic evidence
2 included within a sexual assault evidence collection
3 kit;
- 4 (3) A statewide standard data set, including status and
5 location information that all counties shall include
6 in their respective sexual assault evidence collection
7 kit tracking systems;
- 8 (4) Policies and procedures for sex assault programs and
9 centers, county contractors, and any other facilities
10 that retain sexual assault evidence collection kits
11 under this chapter regarding proper preservation,
12 transfer, tracking, and disposal of kits; and
- 13 (5) Appropriate language for disclosures that shall be
14 made to any person undergoing a medical forensic
15 examination, including but not limited to the length
16 of time a kit may be stored or retained, the point at
17 which a kit may be disposed, and the person's ability
18 to access the status of their kit through the
19 appropriate county tracking system.

20 **§ -3 Annual statewide inventory and report of sexual**
21 **assault evidence collection kits.** The department shall prepare



1 and submit an annual report to the president of the senate and
2 speaker of the house of representatives no later than twenty
3 days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning
4 with the regular session of 2019, detailing for the prior fiscal
5 year:

- 6 (1) The number of sexual assault evidence collection kits
7 collected in each county;
- 8 (2) The number of reported sexual assault evidence
9 collection kits collected in each county;
- 10 (3) The number of unreported sexual assault evidence
11 collection kits collected in each county;
- 12 (4) The number of reported sexual assault evidence
13 collection kits that were submitted to an accredited
14 and approved DNA laboratory for analysis;
- 15 (5) Of the reported sexual assault evidence collection
16 kits submitted to an accredited and approved DNA
17 laboratory for analysis, the number for which analysis
18 has been completed;
- 19 (6) The number of reported sexual assault evidence
20 collection kits that were not submitted to an
21 accredited and approved DNA laboratory for analysis;



1 (7) The number of sexual assault evidence collection kits
2 disposed of in each county, pursuant to section -4;

3 (8) The number of sexual assault evidence collection kits
4 disposed of in each county, for reasons not provided
5 in section -4, and the reason for disposal; and

6 (9) All reasons any kit was in an entity's possession for
7 longer than the periods allowed under section -5.

8 The report shall also be made available to the public on the
9 department's website.

10 **§ -4 Unreported sexual assault evidence collection kits.**

11 (a) A victim who chooses not to file a police report at the
12 time of undergoing a medical forensic examination:

13 (1) May request in writing that the unreported kit be held
14 by the sexual assault program or center in that
15 county; provided that if the victim does not so
16 request, then the appropriate law enforcement agency
17 shall take possession of the unreported kit pursuant
18 to section -5;

19 (2) Shall not be deemed to have waived the victim's right
20 to report the crime and to have the victim's kit
21 tested in the future; and



1 (3) Shall be informed of the date the victim's kit will be
2 disposed of, in writing, at the time of the
3 examination.

4 (b) Agencies, organizations, and other entities in
5 possession of unreported sexual assault evidence collection kits
6 shall store the kits for at least six years if the victim was
7 eighteen years of age or older at the time of incident, and at
8 least twenty years if the victim was under eighteen years of age
9 at the time of incident.

10 **§ -5 Mandatory submission and testing requirements for**
11 **sexual assault evidence collection kits.** (a) An agency,
12 program, center, or other entity that collects a sexual assault
13 evidence collection kit shall notify the appropriate law
14 enforcement agency as soon as practicable after the kit's
15 collection; provided that the notification shall be no later
16 than twenty-four hours after the collection occurred.

17 (b) A notified law enforcement agency shall:

18 (1) Take possession of the sexual assault evidence
19 collection kit from the agency, program, center, or
20 other entity that collected the kit within three
21 business days of receiving notification, if it is



1 either a reported sexual assault evidence collection
2 kit or an unreported sexual assault evidence
3 collection kit that the victim has not requested to be
4 held by the sexual assault program or center in that
5 county;

6 (2) Submit a written request for testing of the reported
7 sexual assault evidence collection kit to an
8 accredited and approved DNA laboratory within fifteen
9 business days of taking possession of the kit; and

10 (3) Within ten business days of acceptance for testing by
11 an accredited and approved DNA laboratory, submit the
12 kit to the laboratory for testing.

13 (c) An accredited and approved DNA laboratory in the State
14 shall:

15 (1) Notify a law enforcement agency that has submitted a
16 written request for testing, within fourteen days of
17 receiving the request, as to whether the laboratory
18 accepts the request or instead recommends providing
19 the reported sexual assault evidence collection kit to
20 another laboratory for testing; and



1 (2) Pursue DNA analysis of a sexual assault evidence
2 collection kit that was accepted from a law
3 enforcement agency to develop autosomal DNA profiles
4 that are eligible for entry into the Combined DNA
5 Index System.

6 (d) The state Combined DNA Index System administrator or
7 designee shall enter a DNA profile into the Combined DNA Index
8 System database pursuant to section 844D-2; provided that the
9 testing of a sexual assault evidence collection kit resulted in
10 an eligible DNA profile; provided further that:

11 (1) Prior to July 1, 2023, the average completion rate for
12 the analysis and classification required by this
13 section shall not exceed one hundred eighty days; and

14 (2) On or after July 1, 2023, the average completion rate
15 for the analysis and classification required by this
16 section shall not exceed ninety days.

17 (e) For cases in which no judgment of conviction has been
18 entered, and there has been no acquittal or final dismissal, a
19 law enforcement agency that is in possession of a reported
20 sexual assault evidence collection kit shall retain the kit for
21 fifty years or until the expiration of the period of limitation



1 for any prosecutable offense under section 701-108, whichever is
2 longer. For cases in which a judgment of conviction has been
3 entered, a law enforcement agency that is in possession of a
4 reported sexual assault evidence collection kit shall retain the
5 kit pursuant to the requirements of section 844D-126.

6 (f) A law enforcement agency's lack of compliance with any
7 of the time requirements of this section shall not:

- 8 (1) Constitute grounds on which to challenge the validity
9 of DNA evidence in any criminal or civil proceeding;
- 10 (2) Justify a court to exclude any evidence generated from
11 a sexual assault evidence collection kit; or
- 12 (3) Provide a basis for a person who is accused or
13 convicted of committing a crime against a victim to
14 request that the person's case be dismissed or
15 conviction be set aside.

16 (g) This section shall not establish a private cause of
17 action or claim on the part of any individual, agency,
18 organization, or other entity against any law enforcement agency
19 or against any accredited and approved DNA laboratory.

20 (h) The requirements of this section concerning notice and
21 transfer of a sexual assault evidence collection kit to a law



1 enforcement agency, and a law enforcement agency's handling of
2 the kit, shall not apply to:

- 3 (1) Cases that are under the primary jurisdiction of
4 agencies outside of the authority of the State; or
5 (2) Cases in which jurisdiction may be asserted by more
6 than one agency; provided that all reasonable efforts
7 shall be made to determine jurisdiction as soon as
8 practicable; provided further that if primary
9 jurisdiction is determined to belong to a law
10 enforcement agency under the authority of the State,
11 then notice and transfer of a sexual assault evidence
12 collection kit to the law enforcement agency, and the
13 law enforcement agency's handling of the kit, shall be
14 in accordance with the requirements of this section as
15 of the date on which jurisdiction was established with
16 respect to the kit's collection.

17 **§ -6 Tracking system for sexual assault evidence**

18 **collection kits.** (a) No later than January 1, 2020, each
19 county shall establish an electronic tracking system for sexual
20 assault evidence collection kits. At a minimum, each system
21 shall:



- 1 (1) Track the status of sexual assault evidence collection
2 kits from the specimen collection site to final
3 storage or disposal, including but not limited to the
4 initial collection, inventory, and storage by law
5 enforcement agencies or accredited and approved DNA
6 laboratories; analysis at accredited and approved DNA
7 laboratories; and storage or disposal after completion
8 of analysis;
- 9 (2) Allow all entities, approved by the department, that
10 collect, receive, maintain, store, or preserve sexual
11 assault evidence collection kits to update the status
12 and location of the kits; and
- 13 (3) Allow victims of sexual assault to access the system
14 for the location and status of their respective sexual
15 assault evidence collection kits.
- 16 (b) All agencies, organizations, and other entities
17 approved by the department and in the chain of custody of sexual
18 assault evidence collection kits shall participate in the
19 tracking system by updating the status and location of kits, as
20 appropriate. The department shall have access to all tracking
21 systems statewide, at all times.



1 **§ -7 Victims' right to notification and other**

2 **information.** (a) A sexual assault victim has the right to
3 receive a medical forensic examination, regardless of whether
4 the victim chooses to report the assault to a law enforcement
5 agency.

6 (b) Each law enforcement agency shall designate at least
7 one person, who is trained in trauma and victim response, to
8 receive all inquiries concerning sexual assault evidence
9 collection kits and to serve as a liaison between the agency and
10 victims.

11 (c) A sexual assault victim shall be provided with the
12 contact information for the designated liaison or liaisons at
13 the time that the victim's sexual assault evidence collection
14 kit is collected.

15 (d) In advance of or during a medical forensic examination
16 or law enforcement agency interview, medical professionals,
17 victim advocates, law enforcement officers, or prosecutors shall
18 provide a sexual assault victim with a physical document
19 developed by the Hawaii sexual assault response and training
20 program that identifies the victim's rights under this chapter,
21 including:



- 1 (1) Support from, and consultation with, a crisis worker
2 at the time that a sexual assault evidence collection
3 kit is collected; provided that sufficient funding is
4 available;
- 5 (2) Information about the current location, analysis date
6 and status, and estimated disposal date of the
7 victim's sexual assault evidence collection kit;
- 8 (3) Notification when there is any major development, as
9 defined in section 801D-2, in a case that the victim
10 reported to a law enforcement agency, including
11 whether the case has been closed or reopened;
- 12 (4) Designation of a person of the victim's choosing to
13 act as a recipient of the information provided under
14 this subsection;
- 15 (5) Information on how to report an offense to a law
16 enforcement agency and how to request that the
17 victim's sexual assault evidence collection kit be
18 analyzed in the future; provided that the victim
19 either chose not to report the offense at the time the
20 victim's kit was collected, or previously withdrew the
21 report but later chose to reinstate the report; and



1 (6) Information about the availability of crime victim
2 compensation and other services for victims of sexual
3 assault, as appropriate."

4 SECTION 3. Section 706-603, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (3) to read as follows:

6 "(3) There is established a special fund to be known as
7 the DNA registry special fund which shall be administered by the
8 attorney general. The fund shall consist of:

9 (a) All assessments and penalties ordered pursuant to
10 subsection (1);

11 (b) All other moneys received by the fund from any other
12 source; and

13 (c) Interest earned on any moneys in the fund.

14 Moneys in the DNA registry special fund shall be used for the
15 Hawaii sexual assault response and training program established
16 pursuant to chapter ; costs related to testing and storage of
17 sexual assault evidence collection kits pursuant to chapter ;
18 and DNA collection, DNA testing, and related costs of recording,
19 preserving, and disseminating DNA information pursuant to
20 chapter 844D."



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the DNA registry
2 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
3 necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the staffing, training,
4 materials, and travel expenses of the Hawaii sexual assault
5 response and training program and for costs related to testing
6 and storage of sexual assault evidence collection kits pursuant
7 to chapter , Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 5. Provided that in addition to the moneys
11 appropriated in section 4 of this Act, the department of the
12 attorney general shall expend an additional \$350,743 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary from the DNA registry special fund
14 in fiscal year 2018-2019 to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
17 provided that section -4, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
18 established by section 2 of this Act, shall take effect on
19 July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Sexual Assault; Evidence; DNA Testing; AG; Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training Program; Appropriation

Description:

Creates a Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training Program to address the manner in which sexual assault evidence collection kits are processed and tracked, and to ensure that victims of sexual assault are informed of their rights under the law. Requires annual reports by the Attorney General to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. Appropriates funds. Authorizes the Department of the Attorney General to expend an additional amount from the DNA registry special fund. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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