



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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### HAWAII MAKES STRIDES IN TESTING SEX ASSAULT KITS

HONOLULU - Attorney General Russell Suzuki would like to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Multi-Disciplinary Team (HI-SAKI MDT). The HI-SAKI MDT, made up of Hawaii's law enforcement, prosecutorial, and victim advocacy agencies, continues its efforts to serve sexual assault survivors in a victim-centered manner.

In March 2018, members of the HI-SAKI MDT were invited to speak at the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grantee meeting in Arlington, Virginia, to showcase Hawaii's progress in the testing of sexual assault kits. The HI-SAKI MDT recently completed the submission of the 1,513 previously untested sexual assault kits to accredited, approved forensic laboratories for DNA testing. Those kits had been collected statewide prior to July 1, 2016, and were determined to require testing. Going forward, the test results are being obtained and evaluated, eligible DNA profiles are being uploaded to the federal DNA database, and appropriate follow up measures are being taken by law enforcement.

Information is available through the *Project Mālama Kākou: Hawaii's Solution for Sexual Assault Evidence Kits* publication, which documents the state's efforts to test previously untested sexual assault kits and to test future sexual assault kits. The status of sexual assault kit testing and other useful information about *Project Mālama Kākou* can be found on the updated and expanded information dashboard on the website: <http://ag.hawaii.gov/hisaki>.

**Attorney General Suzuki** said, "The HI-SAKI team has done a great job in getting the previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits tested. This is a crucial step in the ongoing process to address the devastating impact sexual violence has on victims and the community as a whole."

"We are proud to be part of this multi-disciplinary team and its efforts to serve sexual assault survivors," said **Adrianna Ramelli**, Executive Director of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, The Sex Abuse Treatment Center. "The accomplishment

of the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Kit Initiative is attributed to the collaboration of team members who developed a comprehensive, victim-centered approach to address the untested sexual assault kits."

**Representative Linda Ichiyama** added, "I strongly support the work of the SAKI team and their efforts to bring justice and healing to sexual assault survivors. The more rape kits that we test, the more opportunities we will have to solve cold cases and take predators off our streets."

The HI-SAKI MDT is made up of representatives from:

- Department of the Attorney General
- Honolulu Police Department
- Hawai'i Police Department
- Maui Police Department
- Kaua'i Police Department
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawai'i County
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Maui County
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kaua'i County
- Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
- Child and Family Service, Maui Sexual Assault Center
- YWCA of Hawai'i Island, Sexual Assault Support Services
- YWCA of Kaua'i, Sexual Assault Treatment Program

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