

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

DISASTER RECOVERY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

June 27, 2025

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee, having met on June 4, 2025, makes reference to Bill 158 (2024), entitled “A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF KAUAI FOR FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT.”

Bill 158’s purpose is to authorize the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement for the Department of Police to help the County of Kauaʻi with forensic drug testing.

Your Committee notes that forensic drug testing includes techniques to detect and identify evidence for use in criminal investigations and court proceedings.

At the request of the Chair of your Committee, the Department of the Corporation Counsel transmitted a proposed CD1 version of Bill 158, approved as to form and legality. The proposed CD1 version amends the Memorandum of Understanding’s start date and term and incorporates nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Committee notes that under Section 2.20.020, Maui County Code, the “mayor shall not enter into any intergovernmental agreement or any amendment thereto which places a financial obligation upon the county or any department or agency,” unless authorized by ordinance.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

DISASTER RECOVERY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Page 2

**Committee
Report No. _____**

A representative from the Maui Police Department said the Kauaʻi Police Department requested Maui County’s help with forensic drug testing because it does not have the necessary laboratory.

The representative noted that the Maui Police Department’s drug-analysis laboratory is staffed by two full-time analysts. The analysts’ workload would be split between cases for Maui County and Kauaʻi County. She assured your Committee that the Department can meet the needs of both counties.

The representative also said Kauaʻi County will pay for mailing evidence to Maui. Further, Kauaʻi County will provide reimbursement if Maui County expends funds to test for novel drugs.

Your Committee noted the Memorandum of Understanding’s term is one calendar year, which may be extended by an amendment.

Your Committee expressed support for the Department of Police’s assistance with Kauaʻi County. Your Committee also expressed the view that Maui County’s work needs to be prioritized.

Your Committee voted 9-0 to recommend passage of Bill 158, CD1 (2024), on first reading. Committee Chair Paltin, Vice-Chair U‘u-Hodgins, and members Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted “aye.”

Your Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee RECOMMENDS that Bill 158, CD1 (2024), attached, entitled “A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF KAUAI FOR FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT,” be PASSED ON FIRST READING and be ORDERED TO PRINT.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

DISASTER RECOVERY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Page 3

**Committee
Report No.** _____

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of the Council.

Tamara A.M. Paltin

TAMARA PALTIN, Chair

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ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 158, CD1 (2024)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I FOR
FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE KAUA'I POLICE
DEPARTMENT AND THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. The County of Maui and the County of Kaua'i seek to enter into an agreement for forensic testing services between the Kaua'i Police Department and the Maui Police Department, as described in the Memorandum of Agreement attached as Exhibit "1."

Section 2.20.020, Maui County Code, provides, "Unless authorized by ordinance, the mayor shall not enter into any intergovernmental agreement or any amendment thereto which places a financial obligation upon the county or any department or agency thereof."

SECTION 2. Under Section 2.20.020, Maui County Code, the Council authorizes the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Agreement and any amendments consistent with the purpose and scope of the Memorandum of Agreement that do not increase the County's financial obligation or the agreement's duration.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance takes effect on approval.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

/s/ Michael J. Hopper

Department of the Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

ALICE L. LEE

Upon the request of the Mayor.

EXHIBIT "1"

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between the Kauai Police Department ("KPD") of the County of Kauai and the Maui Police Department ("MPD") of the County of Maui to formalize the provision of forensic drug testing services by MPD for KPD.

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the collaboration between KPD and MPD for forensic drug testing services, ensuring the integrity of evidence and the proper management of associated costs.

BACKGROUND:

The Kauai Police Department requires reliable forensic drug testing services to support criminal investigations and court cases within the County of Kauai. The Maui Police Department possesses the necessary expertise and laboratory resources to provide these services. This MOU outlines the terms and responsibilities associated with the provision of these services, including a required secondary technical review by Solutions for Quality Management.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT:

- I. Scope of Services:
 - A. MPD agrees to perform forensic drug testing for KPD at no direct cost to KPD.
 - B. The forensic testing will be conducted to support criminal investigations and legal proceedings within the County of Kauai.
- II. Responsibilities:
 - A. Maui Police Department (MPD):
 1. Conduct accurate and timely forensic drug testing.
 2. Adhere strictly to chain of custody protocols to maintain the integrity and admissibility of evidence.
 3. Provide KPD with comprehensive and reliable testing results.
 - B. Kauai Police Department (KPD):
 1. Provide MPD with necessary information, samples, and case details for testing that was agreed upon in advance with MPD and the County of Kauai Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.
 2. Ensure secure handling and transportation of evidence to MPD's laboratory facilities.

3. Accept / resume custody of all relative evidence back from MPD after sample testing is completed, analyzed, and verified.
4. Utilize the results in criminal court proceedings within the County of Kauai.

III. Chain of Custody Protocol:

Both KPD and MPD commit to maintaining a meticulous chain of custody for all evidence collected and tested. This includes detailed documentation of the custody, handling, and storage of physical evidence from collection through to presentation in court.

IV. Secondary Technical Review and Cost:

- A. MPD's forensic testing requires a secondary technical review by the private laboratory Solutions for Quality Management to ensure quality and compliance. There is a cost associated with the required secondary technical review.
- B. The per case cost for this secondary technical review will be the responsibility of KPD.
- C. KPD will procure the services of Solutions for Quality Management in accordance with Hawaii State Procurement Laws.

V. Invoicing and Payment:

- A. KPD will handle invoicing and payment directly with Solutions for Quality Management for the secondary technical review services; no aspect of invoicing or payment between KPD and Solutions for Quality Management will be the responsibility of MPD.
- B. KPD will reimburse MPD for the purchase of controlled reference standards if the case requires new standard(s) (not readily available in the MPD inventory) for the correct identification.
- C. Should MPD personnel be subpoenaed for trial and / or any other court hearing related to testing done by MPD, KPD shall be responsible for any and all associated costs, including, but not limited to, travel (e.g., airfare).

VI. Term and Amendment:

This MOU shall be effective from the date of the last signature hereto and shall remain in force for one calendar year therefrom. Any modifications or amendments to this agreement must be mutually agreed upon in writing by both parties.


VII. Governing Law:

This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Hawaii.

Signatures:

In witness whereof, the undersigned representatives of the Kauai Police Department and the Maui Police Department have executed this Memorandum of Understanding.


COUNTY OF KAUAI:


for TODD RAYBUCK
Chief of Police
Kauai Police Department

05/21/2025

Date

Approved As to Form and Legality:



05/21/2025

Date

Deputy County Attorney
County of Kauai

COUNTY OF MAUI:

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

Date

Approval Recommended:


JOHN PELLETIER
Chief of Police
Maui Police Department

5/28/25

Date

Approved As to Form and Legality:

Date
Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui