



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISHES EBOLA TESTING CAPABILITIES AT THE STATE LABORATORIES

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) State Laboratories Division (SLD) has received and validated the U.S. Department of Defense-developed, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-deployed real time reverse transcriptase (rRT) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for 2014 outbreak-associated Ebola Zaire Virus.

“With the nation on heightened alert for possible Ebola cases, having laboratory capabilities in Hawaii allows us to have earlier results and timely support for our local disease investigations. Following national guidance, our test results for Ebola will still require final confirmation by the CDC,” said Health Director Dr. Linda Rosen. “Our state is so fortunate to have a public health laboratory with a talented and flexible workforce that can respond quickly to community needs.”

The testing is very similar to the methodology SLD uses for other RNA viruses such as influenza, West Nile virus, and dengue. “Laboratory staff have been fully trained on how to safely work with high risk specimens, including those that may contain Ebola or biological terrorism agents,” said State Laboratories Director Dr. Christian Whelen.

Reporting a potential Ebola case to DOH is required before testing is considered. The department determines if testing is warranted. Physicians are reminded to follow the guidelines established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available at [www.cdc.gov/Ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/Ebola).

DOH continues to work with the healthcare community, state, county, and federal officials to prepare for a possible Ebola case. SLD administers a statewide laboratories program, which conducts scientific analysis in support of environmental health and communicable disease monitoring and control activities. To date, 31 public health laboratories nationwide have testing capability for Ebola.

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