



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Health offers free lecture on over-the-counter genetic testing

HONOLULU – Free expertise is available on genetic test kits. These kits are widely available at local drug stores, on the internet, and in doctors' offices from companies like 23andMe, Ancestry, and Color Genomics. These over-the-counter tests typically require a saliva sample or cheek swab.

The Hawai'i Department of Health invites Dr. Kevin FitzGerald to share his expertise on:

- the benefits and limits of over-the-counter genetic testing,
- the associated ethical and privacy issues, and
- the future of genomic testing for healthcare

The lecture is Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 6-7 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public, at the Queen's Conference Center Auditorium. The Department of Health Genomics Section is sponsoring this special event at no cost to the public. Parking is \$5 in the Queen's Medical Center lots.

FitzGerald is a geneticist and Jesuit priest. FitzGerald serves on many state, federal, and international advisory committees providing expertise and experience in clinical, research, and ethics for issues in genetics and genomics. He spent 18 years at Georgetown University and recently moved to Creighton University.

The Genomics Section:

- Provides information and education about topics in genetics, newborn screening, and birth defects.
- Administers grants related to genetics, newborn screening, and birth defects.
- Coordinates genetics, newborn screening, and birth defects activities.
- Supports clinical genetic services.
- Researches clinical and public health genetics topics.
- Develops public policy surrounding genetics, newborn screening, and birth defects.
- Offers technical assistance.

For more information about the Department of Health's Genomics Section, visit:

<http://health.hawaii.gov/genetics/programs/genetics/>

For questions about the talk, email Lila Aiyar: lila@hawaiigenetics.org or call: (808) 733-8387.

Who: The lecture is open to everyone

When: Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 6 - 7 p.m.

Where: Queen's Conference Center Auditorium

Parking: \$5 in Queen's Medical Center Parking lots

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