REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES

Voting Members:
Val A. Okimoto, Chair; Esther Kia'āina, Vice-Chair;
Scott Y. Nishimoto, Augie Tulba, Matt Weyer

Committee Meeting Held
April 3, 2025

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety & Customer Services, which considered Resolution 25-76 entitled:

"RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENCY-SPECIFIC RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU,"

transmitted by Departmental Communication 148 (2025), dated February 28, 2025, from the Department of the Medical Examiner and introduced on March 4, 2025, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution 25-76 is to adopt the Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule of the Department of the Medical Examiner of the City and County of Honolulu.

Dr. Masahiko Kobayashi, Medical Examiner of the Department of the Medical Examiner, provided comments on the Resolution.

Your Committee received no oral or written testimony on the Resolution.

ADOPTED ON APR 16 2025

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 138

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES

Voting Members:
Val A. Okimoto, Chair; Esther Kia'āina, Vice-Chair;
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Your Committee considered and approved a CD1 version of the Resolution that makes the following amendments:

A. Amends the 1st RESOLVED clause to include the language, "by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu," as required by Section 3-201 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1978 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended.

B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee on Public Safety & Customer Services is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 25-76, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 25-76, CD1. (Ayes: Kia'āina, Okimoto, Tulba, Weyer – 4; Noes: None; Absent: Nishimoto – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

Val A. Okimoto
Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON APR 16 2025

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 138

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **25-76, CD1**

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENCY-SPECIFIC RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Section 46-43 (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the Council of the City and County of Honolulu to permit the disposal of documents and other records after they have been retained for a period of time to be established through resolution by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of obsolete records is an essential part of the efficient management of records; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Medical Examiner wishes to dispose of its obsolete records in accordance with the proposed Department of the Medical Examiner Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit A; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Department of the Medical Examiner's Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Medical Examiner's Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule becomes effective upon adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Medical Examiner be authorized to destroy the records identified on the attached Department of the Medical Examiner Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule at the end of the stated retention periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution supersedes all other resolutions pertaining to the records identified on the Department of the Medical Examiner's Agency-Specific Records Retention schedule attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a record retention period in the 2016 General Retention Schedule ("GRS") conflicts with the period stated in the Department of the Medical Examiner Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule, the retention period in the GRS shall control unless otherwise provided by law; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **25-76, CD1**

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Medical Examiner.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters (br)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

March 4, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Exhibit A

DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

2025 Agency-Specific Records Retention Schedule

DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
AGENCY-SPECIFIC RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE

REV 2025

This agency-specific records retention schedule incorporates best practices recommendations of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP). In cases where those recommendations diverge, the department seeks to adopt the more conservative of the two recommendations.

Table 1: Medical Examiner Final Reports

Item Number	Record Series Title	Retention Period	Storage Requirement
MED-1-01	Final Investigative Reports	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature
MED-1-02	Final Autopsy Reports	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature

Table 2: Medical Examiner-generated Case Records

Item Number	Record Series Title	Retention Period	Storage Requirement
MED-2-01	Case documentation	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature Digital Storage
MED-2-02	Case Log Books	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature
MED-2-03	MED-generated Photographs	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature
MED-2-04	MED-generated X-rays	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature

Table 3: Third-party Case Records

Item Number	Record Series Title	Retention Period	Storage Requirement
MED-3-01	Non-digital photographs	65 Years	Room Temperature
MED-3-02	Digital photographs (CD/DVD)	10 Years	Room Temperature
MED-3-03	X-rays (CD/DVD)	65 Years	Room Temperature
MED-3-04	Documents, photographs, or X-rays uploaded into case management system	Permanent Retention	Digital Storage

Table 4: Biological Specimen Retention

Item Number	Record Series Title	Retention Period	Storage Requirement
MED-4-01	Formalin-Fixed Tissue*	1 Year	Room Temperature
MED-4-02	Tissue (Unpreserved)*	1 Year	Frozen
MED-4-03	Toxicology Samples* (blood, urine, vitreous fluid, bile, gastric contents)	1 Year	Refrigerated
MED-4-04	Toxicology Samples Sent out to a toxicology laboratory	2 Years	Refrigerated
MED-4-05	Paraffin Blocks	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature
MED-4-06	Microscopic Slides	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature
MED-4-07	DNA Spot Cards	Permanent Retention	Room Temperature
MED-4-08	DNA Tissue Samples	Permanent Retention	Frozen

**Subject to certain exceptions, as described in Table 5*

Table 5: Exceptions for Retention of Specimen Samples Defined in Table 4

Item Number	Record Series Title	Retention Period	Storage Requirement
MED-5-01	Case Pending	No disposal until the cause/manner of death is determined	See Table 4
MED-5-02	Homicides	2 Years	See Table 4
MED-5-03	Undetermined cause or manner of death	2 Years	See Table 4
MED-5-04	Unidentified	No disposal until 2 years after a positive identification is made	See Table 4
MED-5-05	Infant and Young Children Homicide (<15 years)	5 Years	Blood sample to be frozen For other specimens, see Table 4
MED-5-06	Special Request: A record may be retained for a defined period of duration longer than the specified retention interval for the applicable record series upon request by forensic pathologist, next-of-kin, attorney, or interested agency.	Subject to justification to, and approval by, Medical Examiner or Deputy Medical Examiner	To Be Determined

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Report Title:
Department of the Medical Examiner; Records Retention Schedule

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.