

JAN 26 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Current state law requires that an individual
2 registering as a voter in any county in the State of Hawaii make
3 an application in the form of an affidavit that includes the
4 name, the social security number, the date of birth, and the
5 residence, including the mailing address. Additionally, the
6 department of health is mandated to provide to the county clerks
7 a list of the names of all citizens of voting age or over whose
8 deaths have been recorded in the department during each month.
9 The list shall be sufficient to allow county clerks to identify
10 registered voters who have died and, currently, the county
11 clerks request the full social security number of the deceased.

12 The use of social security numbers as identity markers
13 substantially increases the risk of identity theft. State
14 government has made strides to decrease its use of social
15 security numbers and to increase criminal penalties for misuse
16 of social security numbers. Modernized data matching procedures
17 are now able to match records using the last name, the first
18 name, the date of birth, and the last four digits of the social

1 security number with a high degree of accuracy. These modern
2 data matching procedures are effective and render the use of
3 full social security numbers unnecessary and inefficient.

4 The purpose of this bill is to reduce the use of full
5 social security numbers for identification purposes by allowing
6 the department of health to redact all but the last four digits
7 of social security numbers provided to county clerks for the
8 purposes of eliminating deceased persons from the voter rolls.

9 SECTION 2. Section 338-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§338-4 Deaths reported to county clerks.** The department
12 of health shall within six weeks after the end of each month
13 deliver, or forward by mail, to the county clerk of each county
14 a list of the names of all citizens of voting age or over whose
15 deaths have been recorded in the department during each month.
16 The list shall ~~[set forth such portion of the information~~
17 ~~contained in the death record of]~~ include the first name, last
18 name, date of birth, date of death, and last four digits of the
19 social security number of each citizen whose death is so
20 reported ~~[as will be of assistance to the county clerk in~~
21 ~~identification]~~. If the reported information of a deceased
22 citizen matches the information of more than one citizen on the

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1 county voter rolls and a county clerk notifies the department of
2 health of that problem, the department of health shall provide
3 the full social security number of that deceased citizen."

4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:


BY REQUEST

Report Title:

Social Security Number Protection

Description:

Amends section 338-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to redefine data reportable to county clerks in a manner consistent with protecting social security numbers.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to redefine the data that the Department of Health (DOH) must report to county clerks. Full social security numbers would no longer be provided, instead only the last four digits of the social security number would be provided for purposes of identification.

MEANS: Amend section 338-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Current state law requires that an individual registering as a voter in any county in the State of Hawaii make an application in the form of an affidavit that includes their name, social security number, date of birth, and residence, including mailing address. Additionally, the DOH is mandated to provide to the county clerks a list of the names of all citizens of voting age or over whose deaths have been recorded in the department during each month. The list shall be sufficient to allow county clerks to identify registered voters who have died. Currently, the county clerks request the full social security number of the deceased.

The use of social security numbers as identity markers substantially increases the risk of identity theft. State government has made strides to decrease its use of social security numbers and to increase related criminal penalties for misuse of social security numbers. Modernized data matching procedures are now able to match records using the last name, the first name, the date of birth, and the last four digits

of the social security numbers with a high degree of accuracy. This option renders the use of full social security numbers unnecessary and inefficient.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the DOH to redact social security numbers, except for the last four digits, provided to county clerks for the use of eliminating deceased persons from the voter rolls.

Impact on the public: These changes will reduce potential release of social security numbers to unauthorized persons.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The changes will allow DOH to follow stricter measures for privacy protections. The changes will require that the Office of Elections modify the software used to match names against their voter registration lists.

GENERAL FUND:	None.
OTHER FUNDS:	None.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:	HTH-760.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:	County clerks.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon approval.