
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, under existing law,
2 the real property assessment division of each county does not
3 receive regular notice of residents' deaths. Consequently, the
4 members of a deceased person's household can continue to receive
5 a deceased property owner's county real property tax exemption
6 and unfairly benefit from an unreported death. The legislature
7 further finds that if the department of health were to promptly
8 notify each county's real property assessment division each
9 month of deaths that were recorded, the counties would be able
10 to identify deceased persons and remove them from the county
11 real property tax records. The legislature finds that this
12 communication would prevent surviving household members from
13 claiming the deceased person's real property tax exemption and
14 would ensure a more equitable distribution of taxes among real
15 property owners. The legislature further finds that this would
16 also prevent subsequent owners of a deceased person's property

1 from being penalized for inadvertently receiving a real property
2 tax exemption meant for the deceased person.

3 The purpose of this Act is to promote the accuracy of real
4 property assessments by requiring the department of health,
5 within six weeks of the last day of each month and at no charge,
6 to provide each county's real property assessment division a
7 list of all persons age eighteen and older whose deaths were
8 recorded by the department during the previous month.

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

11 **"§338-4 Deaths reported to county clerks.** (a) The
12 department of health [~~shall~~], within six weeks after the end of
13 each month, shall deliver, or forward by mail, at no charge, to
14 the county clerk and to the real property assessment division of
15 each county a list of the names of all citizens of voting age or
16 over whose deaths have been recorded in the department during
17 each month. The list shall set forth [~~such~~] the portion of the
18 information contained in the death record of each citizen whose
19 death is so reported as will be of assistance to the county
20 clerk and county real property assessment division in
21 identification[~~-~~], and if available, shall include the last four

1 digits of the deceased's social security number, date of birth,
2 date of death, and last known address.

3 (b) If any of the information reported to the county clerk
4 or the county real property assessment division pursuant to
5 subsection (a) of this section matches the information of more
6 than one taxpayer on a county clerk's voting database or a
7 county real property assessment database and that county clerk
8 or county real property assessment division notifies the
9 department of health of the match, the department of health
10 shall provide the full social security number of that deceased
11 taxpayer, without fee, to the county clerk or the county real
12 property assessment division."

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

16

Report Title:

Vital Statistics; Reporting

Description:

Requires the department of health to provide each county's real property assessment division a monthly list of death records at no charge. Effective 7/1/50. (SD1)

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