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**LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF PETER A. NAKAMURA**  
**COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF KAUAI**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
**REGARDING SENATE BILL NO. 928**  
**RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION**

February 10, 2009

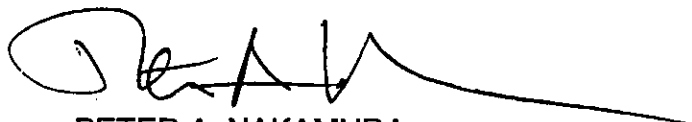
Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 928. The purpose of this bill is to redefine State Department of Health data reportable to the City and County Clerks.

While the Office of the County Clerk appreciates the intent of this bill, its passage would hinder our office's ability to efficiently and correctly identify and remove deceased individuals from our voter registration file, which is utilized to ensure a timely and accurate voter registration roll. This accuracy is a critical component in assuring voters' confidence in the administration and outcome of our elections.

Furthermore, we find the Department of Health's arguments supporting the bill quite disingenuous since we understand that they already provide a file of deceased individuals including full social security number to the Social Security Administration (SSA) who then sells the file to anyone in a product called the SSA Death Master File (see attached).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 928.



**PETER A. NAKAMURA**  
County Clerk

## NTIS Products

# Social Security Administration's Death Master File

### Disclaimer

The products advertised on this website contain the complete and official Social Security Administration (SSA) database extract, as well as updates to the full file of persons reported to SSA as being deceased. SSA cannot guarantee the accuracy of the DMF. Therefore, the absence of a particular person on this file is not proof that the individual is alive. Further, in rare instances it is possible for the records of a person who is not deceased to be included erroneously in the DMF.

### Death Master File, Full File – Now Available on DVD

The Death Master File is available through the official distributor of the Social Security Administration, NTIS. The file is used by leading government, financial, investigative, credit reporting organization, medical research and other industries to verify identity as well as to prevent fraud and comply with the USA Patriot Act. To assist in this effort, NTIS and SSA are working together to offer the SSA Death Master File more frequently, with fewer delays, and in different formats.

Now this essential data can be searched online, negating the need for small to medium sized organizations to maintain and update a large data file.

### Prevent Identity Fraud

By methodically running financial, credit, payment and other applications against the Death Master File, the financial community, insurance companies, security firms and state and local governments are better able to identify and prevent identity fraud. The USA Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001), requires an effort to verify the identity of customers, including procedures to verify customer identity and maintaining records of information used to verify identity. A user may now access an online search application or maintain a raw data version of the file. The online service is updated weekly and the weekly and monthly updates are offered electronically via https, reducing handling and production time.

### Verify Identity

The Death Master File in an online search application or as raw data on CD is also important for identification verification other than for preventing fraud. Medical researchers, hospitals, oncology programs all need to track former patients and study subjects. Investigative firms use the data to identify persons, or the death of persons, in the course of their investigations. Pension funds, insurance organizations, Federal, State and Local governments and others responsible for payments to recipients/retirees all need to know if they might be sending checks to deceased persons. Individuals may search for loved ones, or work toward growing their family trees. Professional and amateur genealogists can search for missing links.

### Data File

#### Quick Links

[Order SSA Products](#)

[More DMF Information](#)

[Search the DMF](#)

[Download Products](#)

[Online Products](#)

[Mandatory Requirements](#)

[Record Layout](#)

[Also available from NTIS](#)

[Computer Products](#)

The Death Master File (DMF) from the Social Security Administration (SSA) contains over 65 million records of deaths that have been reported to SSA. This file includes the following information on each decedent, if the data are available to the SSA: social security number, name, date of birth, date of death, state or country of residence (2/88 and prior), ZIP code of last residence, and ZIP code of lump sum payment. The SSA does not have a death record for all persons; therefore, SSA does not guarantee the veracity of the file. Thus, the absence of a particular person is not proof this person is alive.

► **Keeping Social Security Death Master Data Up-to-date**

The Social Security Administration has mandated that subscribers to the Death Master File raw data keep the DMF information complete and up-to-date. If this is not done, inaccuracies are created in the DMF database that contribute to erroneous information about individual citizens.

► **File Specifications**

View or download the DMF file specifications (in PDF format). [To download this file directly to your computer, press the link above while holding the *SHIFT* key for PC's, the *Option* key for Macs.]

Product Description	NTIS Order Number	Availability
► <a href="#">Social Security Administration Death Master Online Search</a>	6 versions	
► <a href="#">Social Security Administration Death Master File (Full File) Quarterly</a>	SUB-5251INQ	Click on the links to the left for ordering information.
► <a href="#">Social Security Administration Death Master Weekly Updates File</a>	SUB-5465INQ	
► <a href="#">Social Security Administration Death Master Monthly Updates File</a>	SUB-5446INQ	

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**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
National Technical Information Service  
Springfield, Virginia 22161  
(703) 605-6000 • 1-800-553-NTIS (6847)

## Death Master File Extract Output Record Specification 09/2001

Record Location	Field Description	Field Size
01	Blank or A (add) C (change) or D (delete)	1
02-10	Social Security Number	9
11-30	Last Name	20*
31-34	Name Suffix	4*
35-49	First Name	15*
50-64	Middle Name	15*
65	V or P Code (Verify or Proof code)	1*
66-73	Date of Death (MM,DD,CC,YY)	8*
74-81	Date of Birth (MM,DD,CC,YY)	8*
82-83	State/Country Code of Residence /1	2*
84-88	Zip code Last Residence	5*
89-93	Zip code Lump Sum Payment	5*
94-100	Blanks	7

### Online and CDROM specifications

Record Length: 100 - WITH LINE FEED CHARACTER ADDED AT END

**\*\*Note:** the record length will be 101 because there is a line feed character at the end of both the ASCII file and the EBCDIC online file, and the ASCII CDROM.

/1 = No new information after 2/88

### Tape or Cartridge Specifications

3480 Cartridges

Record Length: 100 Block size: 27900

\*Revised 3/01 to expand the name field, adds the middle name, suffix and V/P fields, and adjusts remaining field positions accordingly.

\*\*It is preferred that cartridges are used instead of the magnetic tapes, as there is considerably less incidence of a faulty product with the cartridges.

**\*\*A = NEW DEATHS TO BE ADDED TO YOUR MASTER DMF OR REPLACE CURRENT MASTER FILE ENTRIES (AS IF CHANGES). IF UPDATE "A" IS FOR AN IDENTICAL ENTRY ON MASTER DMF, REPLACE CURRENT ENTRY OR IGNORE THIS UPDATE. IF UPDATE "A" IS FOR SAME SSN ON MASTER FILE, BUT WITH SOME OTHER DIFFERENT DATA, REPLACE CURRENT ENTRY WITH THIS LATEST DATA.**

**C = CHANGES MADE TO THE RECORDS ON THE DMF DURING THAT MONTHLY PERIOD (SUCH AS IN DATE OF BIRTH OR DEATH, ETC). THIS ENTIRE "C" RECORD FOR THAT SSN SHOULD REPLACE ANY CURRENT RECORD YOU HAVE ON YOUR MASTER DMF, OR BE ADDED IF NO ENTRY FOUND ON YOUR MASTER.**

**D = DELETES: ANY SSN RECORD PREVIOUSLY ON THE DMF WHICH WAS FOUND TO BE ERRONEOUS AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM YOUR MASTER DMF; OR IF NO CURRENT RECORD ON MASTER FILE, IGNORE THIS DELETE.**

**\*\*\*\* V = (VERIFIED) REPORT VERIFIED WITH A FAMILY MEMBER OR SOMEONE ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY, OR ...**

**P = (PROOF) DEATH CERTIFICATE OBSERVED. (NOTE: DMF SUBSCRIBERS MUST NOT TAKE ANY ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL WITHOUT FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO VERIFY ANY DEATH LISTED, EVEN IF V OR P CODES ARE PRESENT.**

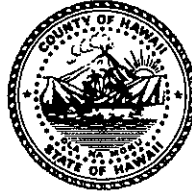
**\*\*\*SSA DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY OF THE DEATH MASTER FILE\*\*\***

DMF - STATE/COUNTRY CODE RESIDENCE (09/01)

CODE		CODE	
01	ALABAMA	35	NORTH DAKOTA
02	ALASKA	36	OHIO
03	ARIZONA	37	OKLAHOMA
04	ARKANSAS	38	OREGON
05	CALIFORNIA	39	PENNSYLVANIA
06	COLORADO	40	PUERTO RICO
07	CONNECTICUT	41	RHODE ISLAND
08	DELAWARE	42	SOUTH CAROLINA
09	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	43	SOUTH DAKOTA
10	FLORIDA	44	TENNESSEE
11	GEORGIA	45	TEXAS
12	HAWAII	46	UTAH
13	IDAHO	47	VERMONT
14	ILLINOIS	48	VIRGIN ISLANDS
15	INDIANA	49	VIRGINIA
16	IOWA	50	WASHINGTON
17	KANSAS	51	WEST VIRGINIA
18	KENTUCKY	52	WISCONSIN
19	LOUISIANA	53	WYOMING
20	MAINE	54	AFRICA
21	MARYLAND	55	ASIA
22	MASSACHUSETTS	56	CANADA
23	MICHIGAN	57	CENTRAL AMERICA & WEST INDIES
24	MINNESOTA	58	EUROPE
25	MISSISSIPPI	59	MEXICO
26	MISSOURI	60	OCEANIA (AUSTRALIA & ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC)
27	MONTANA	61	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
28	NEBRASKA	62	SOUTH AMERICA
29	NEVADA	63	AREAS UNDER U.S. ADMINISTRATION: (CANAL ZONE, CANTON ISLANDS, CAROLINE ISLANDS, MARIANA ISLANDS (OTHER THAN GUAM), MARSHALL ISLANDS, MIDWAY ISLANDS, WAKE ISLANDS)
30	NEW HAMPSHIRE	64	AMERICAN SAMOA
31	NEW JERSEY	65	GUAM
32	NEW MEXICO		
33	NEW YORK		
34	NORTH CAROLINA		

(NOTE: IF ANY ALPHA'S/OR OTHER NUMERICS SHOW IN THESE TWO CODE POSITIONS, YOU SHOULD IGNORE THEM. FOR PURPOSES, IT MEANS THAT SSA DOES NOT HAVE A STATE/COUNTRY CODE FOR YOU.)

KENNETH GOODENOW  
*County Clerk*



**LATE**

*OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK*

**Elections Division**  
*County of Hawaii*  
*Hawaii County Building*  
*25 Aupuni Street*  
*Hilo, Hawaii 96720*

TESTIMONY OF KENNETH G. GOODENOW,

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF HAWAII

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

ON SENATE BILL NO. 928

RELATING TO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Chairman Taniguchi and Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

The Office of the County Clerk opposes Senate Bill No. 928. The purpose of this bill is to limit the information provided by the Department of Health to the County Clerk's for the purpose of removing deceased voters from the voter registration list.

While we share the concern of protecting personal information, the use by our office of social security numbers is a vital tool in safeguarding the integrity of the statewide voter registration system; it is a unique feature in identifying each voter.

We have diligently worked at protecting the privacy of every voter record. We find it ironic that the Department of Health seeks passage of this bill to limit the use of the full social security number of deceased individuals to a government agency within the State of Hawaii, while at the same time selling this information to the United States Social Security Administration.

The passage of this bill will hamper our ability to accurately update the voter registration rolls. Moreover, without the use of social security numbers, voters could incorrectly be removed from voter rolls.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 928.

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MIHOKO E. ITO

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325

**FROM:** Mihoko E. Ito, Esq.

**DATE:** February 9, 2009

**RE:** S.B. 928– Relating to Social Security Number Protection  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

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Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am Mihoko Ito, testifying on behalf of the Consumer Data Industry Association (CDIA). Founded in 1906, CDIA is the international trade association that represents more than 400 data companies. CDIA members represent the nation's leading institutions in credit reporting, mortgage reporting, fraud prevention, risk management, employment reporting, tenant screening and collection services.

CDIA expresses concerns regarding S.B. 928, which proposes use only the last four digits of the social security number when deaths are reported from the Department of Health to the county clerk.

Credit reporting agencies often review deaths reported to clerks, to verify that the person who has died is lined up with the correct credit file. Lack of precision in the reporting of deaths to credit reporting agencies may occasionally result in credit being granted by fraud in the name of a decedent. Since people with common names can and do share the last four digits of an social security number, the best way to prevent identity theft is to have the full social security number reported to the clerk, and to a credit reporting agency.

We respectfully request that the foregoing concerns be considered, and welcome any questions you have regarding our testimony. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.