

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

January 24, 2012

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

HB 2072, Relating to Health

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes this measure. The
2 Administration will be submitting a bill for the sharing of records that was agreed upon by State
3 agencies. We request the Legislature to consider the Administration's bill for record sharing in lieu of
4 H.B. 2072.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** Fees for birth, death, and marriage records are established by law under sections
6 338-14.3 and 338-14.5 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this proposed legislation is to allow the Department of
8 Health to share records with other departments and agencies upon authorization of a person with a
9 tangible interest in the record. The Department of Health opposes this measure because it is
10 unnecessary. The Department already has a procedure in place to share records with other departments
11 and agencies upon authorization of a person with a tangible interest in the record. The legislature in
12 2001 established section 338-18(g) Hawaii Revised Statutes – verification in lieu of a certified copy- to
13 allow the Department of Health to share birth, death and marriage with other departments and agencies.
14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.



HB2072
RELATING TO HEALTH
House Committee on Health

January 24, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on HB2072, which would allow the Department of Health (DOH) to share records with other state departments and agencies upon authorization of a person with tangible interest in the record.

The OHA Administration will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees support HB2072.

To be eligible to benefit from OHA and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands programs, applicants must verify their Native Hawaiian ancestry. Department of Health records, such as birth, marriage and death certificates, provide critical information for ancestry verification. Allowing OHA and other state agencies to obtain these documents on behalf of individuals with a tangible interest in the records will help to streamline verification processes and make it easier for our beneficiaries to obtain benefits through our programs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.