

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HB 2555, HD1, Relating to Vital Statistics Fees

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

Director of Health

February 28, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports HB 2555.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The DOH will use the increase in fees to keep pace with increased costs in the
3 operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the statewide vital statistics system and to fund federally
4 mandated initiatives to prevent identity fraud and increase national security. The current fee of \$10.00
5 has not been increased for 15 years (1997) and is half the amount charged by other states.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** House Bill 2555 is part of Governor Abercrombie's Administrative Package
7 and supports the New Day Agenda goals of investing in people and transforming government. This
8 proposal will reduce dependence on General Funds by adjusting user fees associated with vital statistics
9 certified copies and expedited and correction services. The proposed increase in fees for certified copies
10 of birth, death and marriage records is necessary to fund requirements centered on the legal presence
11 provisions of the REAL ID Act especially to prevent fraudulent use of these vital records. The State of
12 Hawaii Driver License offices are scheduled to implement provisions of the Act on March 5, 2012.

13 Birth, marriage and death records are required documentation for the issuance and renewal of drivers'
14 licenses. The increase in fees for certified copies will fund measures to safeguard these records through
15 increased physical security of the storage of these records and the issuance of birth and marriage records

1 on enhanced security paper. Certified copies of marriage records are used to document a change of
2 name of the driver license after marriage. The matching of birth and death records and indicating on the
3 birth record that the person is deceased will prevent thieves from assuming the identity of dead persons.
4 Many of the enhanced security measures for State vital statistics offices to follow were recommended by
5 the 9/11 Commission and outlined in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005.
6 The expedited and correction service fees are proposed to fund enhanced customer services resulting
7 from increased demand for timely and accurate records and the increased cost of providing these
8 services.

9
10 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of HB 2555.



HB2555 HD1
RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS FEES
House Committee on Finance

February 28, 2012 1:00 pm Conference Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** HB2555 HD1, which would raise the fees associated with vital statistics certified copy and expedited and correction services.

To be eligible to benefit from OHA and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands programs, applicants must verify their Native Hawaiian ancestry. In order to provide such verification, our beneficiaries are often required to use vital statistics certified copy and expedited and correction services. Raising the fees associated with these services will hinder our beneficiaries' ability to obtain much needed benefits through our programs.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee HOLD HB2555 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.