

LATE TESTIMONY

HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

From: Veronika Geronimo, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: HB2567 – COMMENTS ONLY

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 @ 1PM

Good afternoon Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of House Committee on Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB2567. The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers, our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

HB2567 raises the marriage license fee to fund the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the statewide marriage/civil union online registration system proposal. It is also an important opportunity to support the maintenance and enhancement of the various domestic violence and child abuse intervention and prevention programs within the Department of Human Services and the Judiciary, which are funded in part by marriage license fees.

In addition, we request that you consider amending HB2567 to include the domestic violence and sexual assault special fund under the Department of Health among the special funds that receives allocations from the marriage license fees. Currently, the marriage license fees are distributed between the general fund, the spouse and child abuse special accounts under the Judiciary and Department of Human Services, respectively, and the birth defects special fund, but not the spouse and child abuse special account under the Department of Health.

Contributions to these funds have had a significant impact and have supported:

- Community programs statewide that provide survivors support, advocacy and legal assistance;
- Violence prevention activities that help shift attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate abuse;
- Fatality Review Team, Family Court Symposium Training for judges, teen dating abuse program, shelters, Family Strengthening Services, Child Death Review, Family Visitation

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Proposed amendment HB2567:

SECTION 1. Section 338-14.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The fund shall consist of fees remitted pursuant to ~~[section]~~ sections 338-14.5[-] and 572-5. All realizations of the fund shall be subject to the conditions specified in subsection (b)."

SECTION 2. Section 572-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

"(a) The department of health shall appoint, and at its pleasure remove, one or more suitable persons as agents authorized to grant marriage licenses under this chapter in each judicial circuit. The agents may issue licenses from any state facility when deemed necessary by the director. Any agent appointed under this subsection and receiving an application for a marriage license shall collect from the applicant for the license ~~[\$60,]~~ \$100, of which the agent, except those provided for in subsection (b), shall retain \$9 for the agent's benefit and compensation and shall remit ~~[\$51]~~ \$91 to the director of health. Upon the receipt of remittances under this subsection, the director of health shall deposit:

- (1) \$32 for each license issued to the credit of the general fund of the State;
- (2) ~~[\$4.50]~~ \$6.00 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 346-7.5;
- (3) ~~[\$4.50]~~ \$6.00 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 601-3.6; ~~[and]~~
- (4) \$6.00 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 321-1.3;
- (5) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the birth defects special fund established under section 321-426[-]; and
- (6) \$31.00 for each license issued to the credit of the vital statistics improvement special fund established under section 338-14.6.

(b) The department may appoint, as regular employees under the civil service and classification laws, the number of suitable persons as agents authorized to grant marriage licenses for whom provision has been made in the general appropriation act. In the case of these agents, the full amount collected from applicants shall be remitted to the director of health. Upon the receipt of remittances under this subsection, the director of health shall deposit:

- (1) \$41 for each license issued to the credit of the general fund of the State;

(2) [~~\$4.50~~] \$6.00 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 346-7.5;

(3) [~~\$4.50~~] \$6.00 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 601-3.6; [~~and~~]

(4) \$6.00 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account established under section 321-1.3;

(5) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the birth defects special fund established under section 321-426~~[-]~~; and

(6) \$31.00 for each license issued to the credit of the vital statistics improvement special fund established under section 338-14.6.

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

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