

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HB 2567, Relating to Marriage License

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

February 7, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports HB 2567.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department anticipates revenues of \$1.2 million based on 30,000
3 marriages/civil unions annually.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** House Bill 2567 is part of Governor Abercrombie's Administrative
5 Package and supports the New Day Agenda goal of transforming government. This proposal will raise
6 the marriage license fee to \$100 from \$60 to fund the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the
7 statewide marriage/civil union online registration system proposal, and will reduce dependence on
8 General Funds. The current fee has not changed in 10 years.

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10 On January 1, 2012 the Department of Health implemented an online system to register marriage/civil
11 union performers, issue licenses for marriages and civil unions, and register marriage and civil unions
12 performed in the State. The department would like to retain the proposed \$40 increase in the
13 marriage/civil union license fee to cover increased operational costs. The majority of couples entering
14 traditional marriage and civil unions are non-residents and require much more resources to inform and
15 educate the couples about the marriage/civil union registration process. In addition the couples also

1 bring their own marriage/civil union officiants to perform the ceremony. The State must register and
2 educate the performer about the laws and procedures regarding marriage/civil unions in Hawaii. These
3 individuals will usually perform only one marriage/civil union during their visit. It is very expensive to
4 register and train these visiting performers in addition to registering, training and servicing the
5 performers who reside in Hawaii. Many of the visiting performers arrive only a day or two before
6 performing the ceremony.

7

8 The department plans to enlist the hotel industry to provide license agents in visitor destination areas
9 where most of the couples stay. These private individuals require extensive training in processing the
10 marriage/civil union applications and issuing licenses. The Governor's Liaison Offices on the Neighbor
11 Islands no longer provide these services and some of the revenue will fund training of hotel personnel to
12 replace the services formerly provided by the Governor's Liaison Offices.

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14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2567.