



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

**SB2709, HD1 RELATING TO FURNISHING THE DATE OF VITAL EVENTS
TO GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII THAT
REQUEST VERIFICATION**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
March 30, 2012**

1 **Department's Position:** Strong support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Fees for the verification of birth, death and marriage records are established by law
3 under section 338-14.3(d).

4 **Purpose and Justification:**

5 The purpose of this bill is to allow the Department of Health to disclose dates of vital events to
6 governmental agencies within the State of Hawaii seeking to verify information to update official lists of
7 persons more quickly, efficiently and accurately. Many government agencies within the State of Hawaii
8 maintain lists of people who receive public benefits, tax exemptions, or other government services. To
9 discontinue these benefits, exemptions, or government services, the governmental agency must verify
10 that the recipient has died and record the date of death. The proposed amendment to section 338-18(g)
11 would allow the Department of Health to disclose the date of death to governmental agencies within the
12 State in addition to the current verification process.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of the passage of this bill.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

March 30, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2709, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO FURNISHING THE DATE
OF VITAL EVENTS TO GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITHIN
THE STATE OF HAWAII THAT REQUEST VERIFICATION**

Hearing: Friday, March 30, 2012; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to amend section 338-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow the Department of Health to disclose dates of vital events to governmental agencies within the State of Hawaii seeking verification of information contained in vital statistics records for purposes of updating official lists.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill that would allow the Department of Health to share the dates of vital events with governmental agencies.

This bill will eliminate barriers and allow DHS to receive necessary vital statistics information that will enable DHS to stop paying for services for deceased persons. DHS provides services to individuals such as medical assistance. These particular services are provided by managed care health plans that are paid on a capitated basis. These payments continue until DHS learns that a recipient is no

longer eligible or has died. Without receiving a date of death, DHS cannot recover payments made following the date of death and can only stop payments prospectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

assess taxes, and discontinue services on behalf of deceased persons. This will limit fraud and increase the amount of available funds for those who are alive and actually need those funds. This bill includes provisions that would limit the scope of the disclosure to governmental agencies within the State of Hawaii.

We respectfully request that the committee pass this bill.