

LATE
TESTIMONY

SB2709

HTH Committee Hearing 2/01/2012

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M. P.H.
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SB2709, 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
February 1, 2012

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** Fees for the verification of birth, death and marriage records are established by
- 3 law under section 338-14.3(d).
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to allow the Department of Health to disclose
- 5 dates of vital events to governmental agencies within the State of Hawaii seeking to verify information
- 6 to update official lists of persons more quickly, efficiently and accurately. Many government agencies
- 7 within the State of Hawaii maintain lists of people who receive public benefits, tax exemptions, or other
- 8 government services. To discontinue these benefits, exemptions or government services, the
- 9 governmental agency must verify that the recipient has died and record the date of death. The proposed
- 10 amendment to section 338-18(g) would allow governmental agencies within the State of Hawaii to
- 11 receive the date of death via the current verification process.
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of the passage of this bill.

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PATRICIA McMANAMAN
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February 1, 2012

TO: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2012; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2709 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 to allow 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.