

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

**HB 1270, Relating to Health**

**February 8, 2013**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of the measure, but prefers  
2 the Administration-endorsed HB1439, RELATING TO REPORTING DEATHS TO STATE  
3 AGENCIES.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Fees for birth, death, and marriage records are established by law under sections  
5 338-14.3 and 338-14.5 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

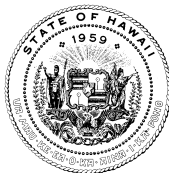
6 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of HB1270 but prefers the  
7 language in HB1439, RELATING TO REPORTING DEATHS TO STATE AGENCIES. HB1439 is  
8 the product of inter-agency dialogue and reflects agreements made along the way, as well as vetting by  
9 the Department of the Attorney General.

10 The Department of Health already has a procedures in place to share records with other  
11 departments and agencies upon authorization of a person with a tangible interest in the record. The  
12 legislature in 2001 established section 338-18(g) Hawaii Revised Statutes, verification in lieu of a  
13 certified copy, to allow the Department of Health to share birth, death and marriage with other  
14 departments and agencies.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify..

*Promoting Lifelong Health and Wellness*

NEIL A BERECROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI  
CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

COMMENTS OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON

**HB 1270, RELATING TO HEALTH**

February 8, 2013

Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) provides comments on this measure that would allow state agencies like DHHL, with written authorization from a registrant, to access vital records.

The department is federally mandated to verify that each applicant for Hawaiian Home Lands is of at least fifty percent native Hawaiian ancestry through certified documentation. It relies on access to public health statistics records to ensure applicant eligibility. This is a crucial process for the department to ensure it meets its fiduciary responsibility. While we appreciate the intent of this bill, we feel it is unnecessary for our purposes at this point because DHHL is currently working with the Department of Health to reach agreement on an administrative process to facilitate and expedite DHHL's access to and inspection of these records.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comments.