

LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HB 0894, HD1 Relating to Vital Records Fees

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

February 25, 2013

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports HB 0894.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** The DOH will use the increase in fees to keep pace with increased costs in the
- 3 operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the statewide vital statistics system and to fund federally
- 4 mandated initiatives to prevent identity fraud and increase national security. The current fee of \$10.00
- 5 has not been increased for 16 years (1997) and is half the amount charged by other states.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** House Bill 0894 is part of Governor Abercrombie's Administrative Package
- 7 and supports the New Day Agenda goals of investing in people and transforming government. This
- 8 proposal will reduce dependence on General Funds by adjusting user fees associated with vital statistics
- 9 certified copies and expedited and correction services.
- 10
- 11 The proposed increase in fees for certified copies of birth, death and marriage records is necessary to
- 12 fund requirements centered on the legal presence provisions of the REAL ID Act, especially to prevent
- 13 fraudulent use of these vital records. The State of Hawaii Driver License offices implemented
- 14 provisions of the Act on March 5, 2012. Birth, marriage and death records are required documentation
- 15 for the issuance and renewal of drivers' licenses. The additional revenue from certified copies will fund

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1 increased physical security of the storage of these records and the issuance of birth and marriage records
2 on enhanced security paper. Certified copies of marriage records are used to document a change of
3 name of the driver license after marriage. The matching of birth and death records and indicating on the
4 birth record that the person is deceased will prevent thieves from assuming the identity of dead persons.
5 Many of the enhanced security measures for State vital statistics offices were recommended by the 9/11
6 Commission and outlined in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005. The
7 expedited and correction service fees are proposed to fund enhanced customer services resulting from
8 increased demand for timely and accurate records and the increased cost of providing these services.

9
10 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of HB 0894.