

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: JUDtestimony
Cc: honestnotary@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2446 on Mar 17, 2016 14:01PM

SB2446

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 17, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Kaster	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I was commissioned as a Notary Public in Hawaii in April of 1997 and have been a Professional Notary Public since January of 2002. The last increase in Notary Fees took place in 1995 when they were raised from \$4 to the current \$5. While I believe that Notaries are deserving of a raise in the fees they can charge, SB 2446, in its current form, proposes inordinately high fees. If passed, Notaries (or their employers if they are not independent Notaries) could easily earn as much as \$125 per hour, or more, making them the highest Notary Fees in the nation. This high fee could easily put Notary Public services out of the reach for Hawaii's un-employed, under-employed or homeless residents. I am proposing that this committee consider amending every occurrence of \$25 in the bill to \$10, and making the fee for EVERY duplicate original \$5. Making such amendment would, at a minimum, double the fee for the average notarization, while still permitting notarization to be affordable those on low or fixed incomes. An increase in Notary Fees is warranted because multiple originals and/or multiple signers, cause an exponential increase in the time required for the Notary to properly and completely record the notarial acts in their journal. The same complete record in the Notary Journal must be done for each and every notarial act and charging \$5 for each duplicate original, per signer, would fairly compensate the Notary for the extended amount of time required to accurately complete the paperwork. Additional time is also required when the notarial wording does not conform to that in Hawaii statutes, often requiring the attachment of a loose certificate or, at the very least the application of the stamped form of that Notarial Certification on the existing document. Inordinately long document titles and/or numerous parties involved in the transaction must be shown in the Journal entry, taking additional time. For the reasons stated above, I encourage you to amend this bill to offer a well-deserved increase, but one that does not make Notarization unaffordable to Hawaii consumers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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