H.B. NO. [00]

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:	
1	PART I	
2	SECTION 1. This Act amends existing law to create a	
3	category of "civil celebrants" that allows secular practitioners	
4	to solemnize marriage in this State, thereby ensuring equal	
5	treatment between religious and secular practitioners in regard	
6	to the rite of marriage.	
7	PART II	
8	SECTION 2. Section 572-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is	
9	amended to read as follows:	
10	"§572-12 By whom solemnized. (a) A license to solemnize	
11	marriages may be issued to, and the marriage rite may be	
12	performed and solemnized by [any]:	
13	(1) Any minister, priest, or officer of any religious	
14	denomination or society who has been ordained or is	
15	authorized to solemnize marriages according to the	
16	usages of such denomination or society[, or any] <u>;</u>	

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1	(2)	Any religious society not having clergy but providing	
2		solemnization in accordance with the rules and customs	
3		of that society[, or any] <u>;</u>	
4	(3)	Any justice or judge or magistrate, active or retired,	
5		of a state or federal court in the State upon	
6		presentation to such person or society of a license to	
7		marry, as prescribed by this chapter. Such person or	
8		society may receive the price stipulated by the	
9		parties or the gratification tendered $[-]$; or	
10	(4)	Any civil celebrant;	
11	upon pres	entation to such person or society of a license to	
12	marry, as	prescribed by this chapter. Such person or society	
13	may recei	ve the price stipulated by the parties or the	
14	gratification tendered.		
15	(b)	As used in this section, "civil celebrant" means a	
16	person of	a secular or non-religious organization who performs	
17	marriage	ceremonies."	
18	SECT	ION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed	
19	and stric	ken. New statutory material is underscored.	
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(IL)

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

BY REQUEST

JAN 2 5 2021

H.B. NO. 1001

Report Title:

Secular marriage solemnization.

Description:

Authorizes issuance of licenses to solemnize marriages for persons of a secular or non-religious organization.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

H.B.No. 1001

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT:	HEALTH
TITLE:	A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH.
PURPOSE:	Authorize civil celebrants with no religious affiliation to solemnize marriages.
MEANS:	Amend section 321-223, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
JUSTIFICATION:	Current state law restricts marriage solemnization to individuals with religious affiliations. Active or retired judges are also authorized, but other secular officiants are not allowed. Authorizing "civil celebrants" with no religious affiliation to solemnize marriage would expand options for marriage. <u>Impact on the public:</u> Expand options for marriage officiation. <u>Impact on the department and other agencies:</u> N/A.
GENERAL FUND:	N/A.
OTHER FUNDS:	N/A.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:	HTH-907.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:	N/A.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon approval.