



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3114 SD2
RELATING TO MARRIAGE LICENSES.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 4, 2022

Room Number: Video & 308

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this measure as drafted.
2 Licenses for non-religious and non-judicial performers was authorized by Act 211, SLH 2021 and a fee
3 was created for civil officiants though none exists for judicial and religious officiants. A lawsuit against
4 the State is likely, since one was filed in 2020 for which Act 211, SLH 2021 was the remedy.

5 Marriage performers receive a license **free of charge** from the State of Hawaii, then subsequently charge
6 fees to couples; examples are provided below. The wedding industry is important to Hawaii's economy as
7 over two-thirds of the 20,000 weddings licensed per year are for out-of-state couples. A modest \$25
8 annual fee will be recovered by a performer within one ceremony.

9 DOH does not receive a moneys from the issuance of marriage licenses for couples, nor from the issuance
10 of licenses for wedding officiants. This measure remedies the latter such that deposits into the Vital
11 Statistics Special Fund will be used to support and improve marriage-related functions at the department.

12 Example of fees retrieved from the Internet on April 1, 2022 from a Hawaii-based company:

Wedding Officiant Service	Fee Charged to Couple
Marriage Paperwork Filing	\$100 – \$150
Wedding Ceremonies at Park or Beach	\$200 – \$275
Wedding Ceremonies at Location of Choice	\$275 – \$475
Premium for holiday sunrise/sunset ceremonies	\$50
Premium for major holidays	\$300

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14 Thanks you for the opportunity to testify.