



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1073 HD1
RELATING TO FEES FOR MARRIGE LICENSES.**

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 17, 2023

Room Number: 225

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this Administration
2 Proposal.

3 DOH staff and approximately 30 agents, the majority of which are private sector but include several
4 Governor's Liaisons, issue over 20,000 marriage licenses per year at a fee of \$60 per license. These
5 funds are disbursed to the general fund and several domestic violence special funds, and include a \$9
6 commisson for the private agent.

7 The purpose of this measure is to increase the \$60 fee to recover expenses for DOH Marriage License
8 Office operations and increase the commission paid to the agents, which hasn't increased in over 25
9 years.

10 It is important to emphasize that DOH performs all the work to issue marriage licenses but receives none
11 of the funds that could be used for quality improvement intiaitives, customer service upgrades, and
12 general maintenance of systems.

13 The department puts forward two options for proposed fee increases:

	Option A – 66%	Option B – 25%
Current Fee	\$60	\$60
Proposed Fee	$\$60 + \$40 = \$100$	$\$60 + \$15 = \$75$
General Fund Deposit	$\$32 + \$3 = \$35$	\$32 – no change
Spouse & Child Abuse Fund	$\$4.50 + \$0.50 = \$5$	\$5 – no change
Spouse & Child Abuse Fund	$\$4.50 + \$0.50 = \$5$	\$5 – no change

Birth Defects Fund	$\$10 + \$10 = \$20$	$\$10 - \text{no change}$
Vital Statistics Fund	$+\$20$	$+\$10$
Agent Commission	$\$9 + \$6 = \$15$	$\$9 + \$5 = \$14$

1

2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

3 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.



TO: Committee on Human Services
Chair San Buenaventura
FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer
RE: H.B. 1073 HD1

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on H.B. 1073 HD 1. Although I am not happy to mention that I was here when the original – the first Bill – to establish assessment of Marriage License Fees for deposit into child and spouse abuse accounts, it is true! I was a part of the initial development and discussion.

The Bill was introduced and passed by Senator Donna Ikeda, when she was Chair of Ways and Means Committee. The intent was to generate a revenue stream to support programs dedicated to addressing domestic violence – including child abuse. The purpose for dividing it among 2 executive agencies and the Judiciary Branch of government was to make sure each of the government agencies/Branch of government, could have funds to support necessary community programs.

Over time, the funds have been diverted and have not sufficiently kept pace with the costs of doing business providing essential safety net domestic violence programs.

It is with relief and gratitude that the Bill has been amended to allow for negotiation of amounts deposited into spouse and child abuse accounts. \$.50 was clearly insufficient. And with the community wide efforts to advocate for **True Costs**, we endorse the idea to establish an amount that supports community based organizations providing life saving and life altering services to island families suffering the harm of abuse. It is a mystery why no monies would be deposited into the DOH Special Fund.

Thank you for favorable action and support for reasonable amounts deposited into the accounts.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTER
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HB-1073-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 3:57:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/17/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
aimee chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The original intent for this bill was to generate a revenue stream to support programs dedicated to addressing domestic violence – including child abuse. The purpose for dividing it among 2 executive agencies and the Judiciary Branch of government was to make sure each of the government agencies, could have funds to support necessary community programs.

Over time, the funds have been diverted and have not sufficiently kept pace with the high costs of doing business in Hawai‘i, providing essential safety net domestic violence programs.

It is critical that this Bill has been amended to allow for negotiation of amounts deposited into spouse and child abuse accounts. Fifty cents was clearly insufficient. And with the community wide efforts to advocate for True Costs, we endorse the idea to establish an amount that supports community based organizations providing life saving and life altering services to island families suffering the harm of abuse. It is unclear why no monies would be deposited into the DOH Special Fund. Thank you for your support of this bill, which means that vital community services may continue for Hawai‘i’s people.

Aimee Chung, MSW, LSW

Executive Board Member, Domestic Violence Action Center

Faculty, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa