



TO: Committee on Human Services  
Chair San Buenaventura  
FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.  
Chief Executive Officer  
RE: S.B. 1371

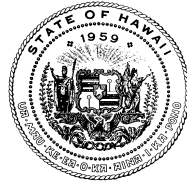
Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on S.B. 1371. Although I am not happy to mention that I was here when the original – the first Bill – to establish assessment of Marriage License Fees for deposit into child and spouse abuse accounts, it is true! I was a part of the initial development and discussion.

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 to other divisions within Department of Health. And have not sufficiently kept pace with the costs of doing business providing essential safety net domestic violence programs.

This Bill adds .50 cents to the accounts in DHS and Judiciary. That is hardly sufficient. And with the community wide efforts to advocate for **True Costs**, we raise this issue for your consideration. It is a mystery why no monies would be deposited into the DOH Special Fund.

Thank you for any amendments that you are able to make.



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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1371  
RELATING TO LICENSES TO FEES FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES.**

SEN. JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 13, 2023

Room Number: 225

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this Administration  
2 Proposal. There are approximately 20,000 marriage licenses issued every year by the department at a fee  
3 of \$60 each, for which the Office of Health Status Monitoring (OHSM) receives no funds despite  
4 performing the work.

5 The \$60 fee is currently disbursed to the general fund, two family violence special funds, and one birth  
6 defects special fund. Private agents authorized by DOH also receive \$9 per license issued. DOH relies  
7 on private agents to more efficiently meet customer needs, especially on the Neighbor Islands.

8 In recognition of the crucial work performed by private agents, and for DOH to recover expenses from the  
9 issuance of marriage licenses, a fee increase from \$60 to \$100 is recommended. Moneys would be  
10 deposited into the vital statistics improvement special fund to finance operations and quality improvement.

11 The Legislature may consider a lower fee increase by reducing or eliminating deposits into non-DOH  
12 special funds. For example, a \$75 fee instead of a \$100 fee may be disbursed as follows:

- 13 • \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the vital statistics improvement special fund, a new  
14 deposit, and
- 15 • An additional \$5 added to the private agent's commission of \$9 for a total of \$14 per licensed  
16 issue.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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