



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

LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2435 HD1
RELATING TO LICENSING.**

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

Hearing Date: March 15, 2024

Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** No additional resources are required to implement.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this
- 3 Administration Measure that will improve customer service and department efficiency.
- 4 An emergency order during the COVID-19 pandemic authorized the issuance of licenses to
- 5 marry online, whereas Hawaii Revised Statutes requires an in-person only appointment. The
- 6 authority for online issuance of marriage licenses sunset with the repeal of the emergency order,
- 7 and as the economy rebounded, so too did local, mainland, and international weddings.
- 8 It is important to emphasize that this measure only affects the issuance of the marriage license.
- 9 The actual marriage ceremony must, pursuant to state law, be in-person with all parties – the
- 10 couple and marriage officiant – physically in the same place.
- 11 For perspective, there are approximately 20,000 marriage licenses issued by the Department of
- 12 Health each year, with about two-thirds issued to couples from outside of Hawaii.
- 13 Online issuance will also benefit Neighbor Islands, where department staff are fewer in number
- 14 and are supplemented by government and private agents who are authorized to issue licenses.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.