



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3124  
RELATING TO LICENSING.**

SEN. KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 23, 2024

Room Number: 016

- 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 The in-person requirement was established prior to modern telecommunications technology
- 9 advancements, and was intended to assure persons seeking a marriage license were not under
- 10 duress. While this may still be legitimate, the fidelity of high definition video and audio enabled
- 11 by modern technology does afford the marriage agent opportunities to observe certain signs of
- 12 duress. That said, in a poll of DOH's marriage license staff, the longest serving with over 15
- 13 years of issuing licenses, there has been only one case where questions were raised. It should be
- 14 noted that DOH issues approximately 20,000 marriage licenses a year, most to out-of-state
- 15 couples.
- 16 Online issuance will also benefit Neighbor Islands, were department staff are fewer in number
- 17 and are supplemented by government and private agents who are authorized to issue licenses.
- 18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-3124**

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 7:35:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/23/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In person only!!