



SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'āina

32nd Legislature, State of Hawaii
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2024

Testimony on
H.B. 2480 - RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of H.B. 2480** which establishes the apostilles and certifications special fund and requires the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to set a fee for the issuance of an apostille or a certification by administrative rules.

Last year, our office provided approximately 10,800 authentication services – a 44% increase over the prior year – and anticipates processing a similar, if not higher, amount this year. These authentication services are for all public and general documents that are used overseas including powers of attorney, marriage certificates, birth certificates, divorce decrees, probated and un-probated wills, judgments, agreements, transcripts, and more. In the short period that I have served as Lieutenant Governor, my staff and I have witnessed firsthand that the current system is archaic and does not serve the public as intended. Since our office is unable to accept credit card or web-based payment, those seeking an apostille or certification must either pay \$1 in cash or obtain a cashier's check that most financial institutions charge \$15 to process. If there are errors in dropped-off paper applications that require our office to mail documents back to the applicant, our office pays between 60 cents to \$2.00 per return. Lastly, if an applicant resides out-of-country, they do not have the ability to purchase U.S. postage and cannot provide a self-addressed stamped envelope, resulting in our office paying between \$1.45 - \$4.00 per international mailing. Passage of this measure will ensure that our office can execute its constitutional obligations and modernize its processes to best serve the public in a cost-effective and convenient manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 2480.