



GOV. MSG. NO. 1327

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 6, 2021, the following bill was signed into law:

HB0991 HD2 SD2

RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF VITAL
STATISTICS RECORDS.
ACT 199 (21)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUL 06 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 199
H.B. NO. 991
H.D. 2
S.D. 2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to:

- 2 (1) Enable the department of health to disclose vital
- 3 statistics records for public health purposes; and
- 4 (2) Update the categories of those who may access
- 5 otherwise confidential vital statistics records.

6 SECTION 2. Section 338-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "§338-18 Disclosure of records. (a) To protect the
9 integrity of vital statistics records, to ensure their proper
10 use, and to ensure the efficient and proper administration of
11 the vital statistics system, it shall be unlawful for any person
12 to permit inspection of, or to disclose information contained in
13 vital statistics records, or to copy or issue a copy of all or
14 part of any [~~such~~] record, except as authorized by this part or
15 [~~by~~] in a manner consistent with rules adopted by the department
16 of health.



1 (b) The department of health shall not permit inspection
2 of public health statistics records, or issue a certified copy
3 of any [~~such~~] record or part thereof, unless it is satisfied
4 that the applicant has a direct and tangible interest in the
5 record. The following persons or agencies shall be considered
6 to have a direct and tangible interest in a public health
7 statistics record:

- 8 (1) The registrant;
- 9 (2) The spouse of the registrant;
- 10 (3) A parent of the registrant;
- 11 (4) A descendant of the registrant;
- 12 (5) A person having a common ancestor with the registrant;
- 13 (6) A legal guardian of the registrant;
- 14 (7) A person or agency acting on behalf of the registrant;
- 15 (8) A personal representative or trustee of the
16 registrant's estate[+] or trust;
- 17 (9) A person whose right to inspect or obtain a certified
18 copy of the record is established by an order of a
19 court of competent jurisdiction;
- 20 (10) Adoptive parents who have filed a petition for
21 adoption and who need to determine the death of one or



- 1 more of the prospective adopted child's natural or
2 legal parents;
- 3 (11) A person who needs to determine the marital status of
4 a former spouse [~~in order~~] to determine the payment of
5 alimony;
- 6 (12) A person, agency, or a beneficiary of a will or trust
7 who needs to determine the death of a [~~nonrelated~~] co-
8 owner of property [~~purchased under a joint tenancy~~
9 ~~agreement, and~~
- 10 ~~(13) A person who needs a death certificate for the~~
11 ~~determination of payments under a credit insurance~~
12 ~~policy.]; and~~
- 13 (13) A person or agency who seeks access to vital
14 statistics records for a public health purpose, as
15 reviewed by the department of health's institutional
16 review committee and approved by the director of
17 health.
- 18 (c) The department of health may permit the use [{}of{}]
19 the data contained in public health [~~statistical~~] statistics
20 records for research purposes only, but no identifying use
21 thereof shall be made.



1 (d) Index data consisting of name and sex of the
2 registrant, type of vital event, and such other data as the
3 director may authorize shall be made available to the public.

4 (e) The department of health may permit persons working on
5 genealogy projects access to microfilm or other copies of vital
6 records of events that occurred more than [~~seventy-five~~] one
7 hundred fifteen years [~~prior to~~] before the current year.

8 [~~(f) Subject to this section, the department may direct~~
9 ~~its local agents to make a return upon filing of birth, death,~~
10 ~~and fetal death certificates with them, of certain data shown to~~
11 ~~federal, state, territorial, county, or municipal agencies.~~
12 ~~Payment by these agencies for these services may be made as the~~
13 ~~department shall direct.~~

14 ~~(g)]~~ (f) The department of health shall not issue a
15 verification in lieu of a certified copy of any [~~such~~] record,
16 or any part thereof, unless it is satisfied that the applicant
17 requesting a verification is:

18 (1) A person who has a direct and tangible interest in the
19 record but requests a verification in lieu of a
20 certified copy;



- 1 (2) A [~~governmental~~] government agency that, for a
2 legitimate government purpose, maintains and needs to
3 update official lists of persons in the ordinary
4 course of the agency's activities. Notwithstanding
5 other provisions of this section, upon request from a
6 [~~governmental~~] government agency of the State [~~of~~
7 Hawaii] or its political subdivisions, the department
8 of health may further disclose to that [~~governmental~~]
9 government agency the date of the vital event that has
10 been verified;
- 11 (3) A [~~governmental agency, or~~] government, private,
12 social, or educational agency or organization that
13 seeks confirmation of a certified copy of any [~~such~~]
14 record submitted in support of or information provided
15 about a vital event relating to any [~~such~~] record and
16 contained in an official application made in the
17 ordinary course of the agency's or organization's
18 activities by an individual seeking employment with,
19 entrance to, or the services or products of the agency
20 or organization;



1 (4) A private or government attorney who seeks to confirm
2 information about a vital event relating to any ~~[such]~~
3 record that was acquired during the course of or for
4 purposes of legal proceedings; or

5 (5) An individual employed, endorsed, or sponsored by a
6 ~~[governmental agency, or]~~ government, private, social,
7 or educational agency or organization who seeks to
8 confirm information about a vital event relating to
9 preparation of reports or publications by the agency
10 or organization for research or educational purposes.

11 (g) For the purposes of this section, "research purposes"
12 shall be limited to those purposes that have been reviewed by
13 the department of health's institutional review committee and
14 approved by the department of health's institutional review
15 committee and the director of health."

16 SECTION 3. Section 338-18.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 repealed.

18 ~~["§338-18.5] Sharing of vital statistics records with~~
19 ~~department of health program employees for approved research~~
20 ~~purposes. (a) Notwithstanding section 338-18, the department~~
21 ~~may disclose public health statistics records to persons who are~~



1 ~~employed by department of health programs, acting within the~~
2 ~~scope of their employment, who need to use a public health~~
3 ~~statistics record for research purposes, as approved by the~~
4 ~~department of health's institutional review committee. Upon the~~
5 ~~institutional review committee's approval, the department may~~
6 ~~disclose the following to department employees as specified in~~
7 ~~this section:~~

8 ~~(1) Names, addresses, and contact information in the~~
9 ~~record for the purpose of contacting persons~~
10 ~~identified in the record to request informed consent~~
11 ~~to use additional specified information in the record.~~
12 ~~Upon confirmation of informed consent, the additional~~
13 ~~specified information in the record may be disclosed~~
14 ~~and used for approved research purposes; and~~

15 ~~(2) Information in the record as approved by the~~
16 ~~institutional review committee without informed~~
17 ~~consent of persons identified in the record; provided~~
18 ~~that the institutional review committee:~~

19 ~~(A) Identifies the information in the record for~~
20 ~~which disclosure is sought;~~



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 06 day of JUL , 2021



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 991, HD 2, SD 2

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 27, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 13, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2021.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate