

FEB 22 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE A PLAN FOR
IMPROVING ITS PROCESS FOR FULFILLING VITAL RECORD REQUESTS
FROM NEIGHBOR ISLAND RESIDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, Office of Health Status
2 Monitoring handles vital records for events that occur in
3 Hawai'i, including birth, death, marriage, and divorce
4 certificates; and

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6 WHEREAS, individuals may apply for vital records through
7 online orders or by mailing in a request for certified copies of
8 vital records available for download from the Department of
9 Health's website; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Health District Health Office
12 serves the community in providing information on accessing and
13 amending vital records, information on getting married in
14 Hawai'i, processing Voluntary Establishment of Paternity, and
15 registration of home births; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Office of Health Status Monitoring, which
18 stores and processes these vital records, is located on the
19 island of O'ahu, and is not easily accessible to neighbor island
20 residents; and

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22 WHEREAS, the process of ordering certified records by mail
23 requires a longer processing time due to postal service
24 operations and because many mail orders may be missing
25 information needed to complete the order; and

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27 WHEREAS, as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019
28 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Health forecasted a
29 reduction of \$20,900,000 in its operating budget; and

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31 WHEREAS, office assistants in the Office of Health Status
32 Monitoring are considered the backbone of the vital records
33 workforce responsible for cataloguing all births, deaths,
34 marriages, and name changes required for identification,



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1 nationality, and other citizenship or resident rights and
2 privileges; and
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4 WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor David Ige issued a
5 Third Supplementary Proclamation and Emergency Rules Relating to
6 COVID-19 which ordered all persons within the State of Hawai'i to
7 stay at home or in their place of residence except as necessary
8 to maintain operations of critical infrastructure sectors; and
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10 WHEREAS, the stay at home orders have led to a backlog of
11 requests, including births being recorded late that interfere
12 with registration with Social Security, and late death
13 registration or certification delaying burials and probate,
14 which ultimately have caused needless stress and anxiety for the
15 average resident in the accomplishment of both ordinary tasks
16 and major life events; now, therefore,
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
20 that the Department of Health Office of Health Status Monitoring
21 is requested to improve its process for fulfilling vital record
22 requests to increase the productivity and accurate processing of
23 vital records; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: _____

