
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, Office of Health Status
2 Monitoring handles vital records for events that occur in
3 Hawaii, 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 Offices
12 serve the communities on the neighbor islands by providing
13 information on accessing and amending vital records, and
14 processing voluntary establishment of paternity forms, marriage
15 license applications, and home birth registrations; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Office of Health Status Monitoring, which
18 stores and processes these vital records, is located on the
19 island of Oahu, 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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1 WHEREAS, office assistants in the Office of Health Status
2 Monitoring are considered the backbone of the vital records
3 workforce responsible for cataloguing all births, deaths,
4 marriages, and name changes required for identification,
5 nationality, and other citizenship or resident rights and
6 privileges; and
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8 WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor David Ige issued a
9 Third Supplementary Proclamation and Emergency Rules Relating to
10 COVID-19, which ordered all persons within the State of Hawaii
11 to stay at home or in their place of residence except as
12 necessary to maintain operations of critical infrastructure
13 sectors; and
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15 WHEREAS, the stay at home orders have led to a logjam of
16 requests, which have resulted in delayed birth recordation,
17 which interferes with Social Security registration, as well as
18 delayed death registration or certification hampering burial
19 plans or probate proceedings, which have caused needless stress
20 and anxiety for the average resident in accomplishing both
21 ordinary tasks and those impacting major life events; now,
22 therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
27 Health Office of Health Status Monitoring is requested to
28 improve its process for fulfilling vital record requests to
29 increase the productivity and accurate processing of vital
30 records; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

