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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2155 H. D. 1
RELATING TO FEES

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/28/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference
Conference Rm 308

Fiscal Implications: Increase in the marriage license fee will allow modernization of the Vital Statistics data system and continue support of the Hawaii Birth Defects Program.

Department Testimony: The Department of Health (DOH) **strongly supports** H.B. 2155 H.D. 1, which is part of the Governor's Administrative Package, to increase the marriage license fee to support modernization of the vital statistics system, Hawaii Birth Defects Program (HBDP), operating costs of marriage license agents, and spouse and child abuse programs of the Department of Human Services and Judiciary.

Increasing the marriage license fee will support the DOH system that collects the marriage license fees and the vital statistics system that issues the marriage certificates. In 2021, there were 18,977 marriage licenses issued, of which 60% were issued to non-residents. No portion of the current \$60.00 marriage license fee is retained by the DOH to maintain the statewide marriage license registration system. The current vital statistics computer system that includes the marriage license issuance and registration system is over 20 years old and needs to be modernized. Post 9/11 laws like the REAL ID Act create an increased demand for marriage records to prove legal name changes for state-issued driver's license and identification cards. Operations will be curtailed without additional long-term financial resources. Hard costs like postage and paper cannot be avoided in order to serve the public.

As specified in HRS §321.422, the purpose of HBDP is to collect surveillance information on

1 birth defects and other adverse reproductive outcomes; report the incidence, trends, and causes of
2 birth defects and other adverse reproductive outcomes; report information for the development of
3 prevention strategies to reduce the incidence of birth defects and other adverse reproductive
4 outcomes; and develop strategies to improve the access of children with birth defects to health
5 and early intervention services.

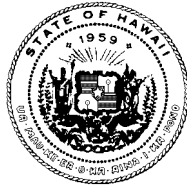
6 The Birth Defects Special Fund was established by the state legislature in 2002 to support the
7 HBDP using marriage license fees and creating a special fund. Since 2002, \$10 from each
8 marriage license fee collected by the DOH has been used to support program staff to collect,
9 analyze, and report on birth defects affecting babies statewide. The information from the
10 program has been essential to policymakers and public health programs as the only source
11 of accurate information to support or disprove concerns or theories about increased number of
12 babies born with defects or possible causes of birth defects (such as genetic—including inherited
13 disorders from parents, environmental, or other causes).

14 There are 43 states that have birth defects programs. HBDP staff directly abstract birth defects
15 data from medical and other records at hospitals and other medical facilities statewide. The
16 number of possible cases reviewed increased from approximately 1,000 to over 2,000 cases in
17 the past few years. Annually, approximately 400 babies are found to have birth defects. HBDP
18 staff salaries and fringe expenses doubled from 2002 to 2021.

19 The increased marriage license fee will also support two spouse and child abuse special funds
20 and marriage license agents, which have not had a fee increase since 1998.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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February 27, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2155 HD1 – RELATING TO FEES.**

Hearing: February 28, 2022, 12:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administrative measure, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Health (DOH).

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to amend the marriage license statute to support the Hawaii Birth Defects Program, modernization of the vital statistics system, operating costs of marriage license agents, and spouse and child abuse programs of the department of human services and of the Judiciary. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1) The HD1 amended the measure by defecting the effective date and making technical amendments.

Vital records such as marriage licenses and birth certificates are critical to obtaining government-issued identification compliant with the REAL ID Act. Hawaii residents and others will benefit from a modern vital statistics systems that will facilitate processing the increased number of records requests.

The increased fees will also provide additional funds to the Spouse & Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF) administered by DHS. The DHS uses the SCASF to support spouse or child abuse intervention or prevention services as provided by section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised

Statutes (HRS), including implementing Hawaii's Family First Prevention Service Act plan, Family First Hawaii.

Similarly, increased fees will also go to the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account administered by the Judiciary as provided by section 601-3.6, HRS, to support its spouse and child abuse programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 28, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 2155, House Draft 1 – Relating to Fees

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2155, House Draft 1. This bill amends the marriage license statute to support the Hawaii Birth Defects Program.

The Hawaii Birth Defects Program is a critical program that collects information on birth defects and provides information to improve the access of children with birth defects to lead a productive life by receiving early intervention services. The program also reports on prevention strategies to reduce the incidence of birth defects.

Increasing the revenues will ensure the program is intact to improve the quality of life for children with birth defects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

for KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director