



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1073 HD1  
RELATING TO FEES FOR MARRIGE LICENSES.**

REP. KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 22, 2023

Room Number: 308

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this Administration  
2 Proposal. There are approximately 20,000 marriage licenses issued every year by DOH at a fee of \$60  
3 each, for which the Office of Health Status Monitoring (OHSM), colloquially the vital records office,  
4 receives no funds despite performing the work.

5 The \$60 fee is currently disbursed to the general fund, two family violence special funds, and one birth  
6 defects special fund. Private agents appointed by DOH, pursuant to [section 572-5, Hawaii Revised](#)  
7 [Statutes](#) (HRS) also receive \$9 per license issued. DOH relies on private agents to more efficiently meet  
8 customer needs, especially on the Neighbor Islands. The commission for private agents has not increased  
9 in over 25 years.

10 In recognition of the crucial work performed by private agents, and for DOH to recover expenses from the  
11 issuance of marriage licenses, a fee increase from \$60 to \$100 (Option A) or \$60 to \$75 (Option B) is  
12 proposed. Moneys would be deposited into the vital statistics improvement special fund to finance  
13 operations and quality improvement initiatives in the vital records office.

14 The department puts forward two options for proposed fee increases:

	Option A	Option B
Current Fee	\$60	\$60
Proposed Fee	$\$60 + \$40 = \$100$	$\$60 + \$15 = \$75$
General Fund Deposit	$\$32 + \$3 = \$35$	\$32 – no change
Spouse & Child Abuse Fund	$\$4.50 + \$0.50 = \$5$	\$5 – no change
Spouse & Child Abuse Fund	$\$4.50 + \$0.50 = \$5$	\$5 – no change

Birth Defects Fund	\$10 + \$10 = \$20	\$10 – no change
Vital Statistics Fund	+\$20	+\$10
Agent Commission	\$9 + \$6 = \$15	\$9 + \$5 = \$14

1

2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

3 **Offered Amendments:** The following amendments are for Option B. Option A is as drafted in  
4 HB1073 HD1.

5 SECTION 2. Section 338-14.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

7 "(c) The fund shall consist of fees remitted pursuant to  
8 [~~section~~] sections 338-14.5[~~7~~] and 572-5. All realizations of  
9 the fund shall be subject to the conditions specified in  
10 subsection (b)."

11 SECTION 3. Section 572-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 1. By amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) The department of health shall appoint, and at its  
15 pleasure remove, one or more suitable persons as agents  
16 authorized to grant marriage licenses under this chapter in each  
17 judicial circuit. The agents may issue licenses from any state  
18 facility when deemed necessary by the director. Any agent  
19 appointed under this subsection and receiving an application for  
20 a marriage license shall collect from the applicant for the  
21 license [~~\$607~~] \$75, of which the agent, except those provided

1 for in subsection (b), shall retain [~~\$9~~] \$14 for the agent's  
2 benefit and compensation and shall remit [~~\$51~~] \$61 to the  
3 director of health. Upon the receipt of remittances under this  
4 subsection, the director of health shall deposit:

5 (1) \$32 for each license issued to the credit of the general fund of the State;

6 (2) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special fund  
7 established under section 346-7.5;

8 (3) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account  
9 established under section 601-3.6; [~~and~~]

10 (4) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the birth defects special fund established under  
11 section 321-426[-]; and

12 (5) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the vital statistics improvement special fund  
13 established under section 338-14.6."

14 2. By amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

15 "(b) The department may appoint, as regular employees  
16 under the civil service and classification laws, the number of  
17 suitable persons as agents authorized to grant marriage licenses  
18 for whom provision has been made in the general appropriation  
19 act. In the case of these agents, the full amount collected  
20 from applicants shall be remitted to the director of  
21 health. Upon the receipt of remittances under this subsection,  
22 the director of health shall deposit:

23 (1) \$41 for each license issued to the credit of the general fund of the State;

24 (2) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special fund  
25 established under section 346-7.5;

1 (3) \$4.50 for each license issued to the credit of the spouse and child abuse special account  
2 established under section 601-3.6; [~~and~~]

3 (4) \$10 for each license issued to the credit of the birth defects special fund established under  
4 section 321-426[-]; and

5 (5) \$15 for each license issued to the credit of the vital statistics improvement special fund  
6 established under section 338-14.6."

7

**HB-1073**

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:56:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
nanci kreidman	domestic violence action center	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

please consider increasing the monies deposited into the child and spouse abuse accounts. \$.50 is very small. The funds deposited have not increased in a long time, and the costs of providing services has increased quite a bit.

thank you.

**HB-1073**

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:37:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Government Rips us off Enough. No More Fees !!!!!!!

**HB-1073**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 3:48:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mara Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of an increase to the fees deposited into child and spouse abuse account to an amount greater than \$.50. Marriage license fees are a revenue stream that could help, that is if the amount allocated was more than \$.50. Given that DOH is looking to increase the fees from \$60-\$100, why is this bill only proposing that \$.50 goes towards the support resources in our community? Please increase the amount that goes back into our community.