



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2435  
RELATING TO LICENSING.**

REP. DAVID TARNAS, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 21, 2024

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** No additional resources are required to implement.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this
- 3 Administration Measure that will improve customer service and department efficiency.
- 4 An emergency order during the COVID-19 pandemic authorized the issuance of licenses to
- 5 marry online, whereas Hawaii Revised Statutes requires an in-person only appointment. The
- 6 authority for online issuance of marriage licenses sunset with the repeal of the emergency order,
- 7 and as the economy rebounded, so too did local, mainland, and international weddings.
- 8 The in-person requirement was established prior to modern telecommunications technology
- 9 advancements, and was intended to assure persons seeking a marriage license were not under
- 10 duress. While this may still be legitimate, the fidelity of high definition video and audio enabled
- 11 by modern technology does afford the marriage agent opportunities to observe certain signs of
- 12 duress. That said, in a poll of DOH's marriage license staff, the longest serving with over 15
- 13 years of issuing licenses, there has been only one case where questions were raised. It should be
- 14 noted that DOH issues approximately 20,000 marriage licenses a year, most to out-of-state
- 15 couples.
- 16 Online issuance will also benefit Neighbor Islands, were department staff are fewer in number
- 17 and are supplemented by government and private agents who are authorized to issue licenses.
- 18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 10:29:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Honda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Please vote NO. As written, safeguards are not included to prevent inadvertent (or advertent) misuse or errors & abuse of the processes. Definitions, safeguards, etc. are not included. Laws that promote & safeguard respect for all would be more beneficial.**

**If the focus of bills is to improve our communities & quality of life, passage of this bill will further divide the community, elevate the desires of adults over the long-term benefits to our children & society, create opportunities for abuse of the system, & cause litigation opportunities. Please do not change our foundations unless it will truly benefit the majority. Stop making short-sighted laws for the money. Please vote NO.**



**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 9:01:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**As written, safeguards are not included to prevent inadvertent (or advertent) misuse or errors & abuse of the processes. Definitions, safeguards, etc. are not included. Laws that promote & safeguard respect for all would be more beneficial.**

**If the focus of bills is to improve our communities & quality of life, passage of this bill will further divide the community, elevate the desires of adults over the long-term benefits to our children & society, create opportunities for abuse of the system, & cause litigation opportunities. Please do not change our foundations unless it will truly benefit the majority. Stop making short-sighted laws for the money. Please vote NO.**

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 3:46:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Please vote NO. As written, safeguards are not included to prevent inadvertent (or advertent) misuse or errors & abuse of the processes. Definitions, safeguards, etc. are not included. Please vote NO.**

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 2:04:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 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:

Only in Person no other way!!!!!!

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 4:59:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna-Marie Musico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no.

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 10:28:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Collado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to HB2435 relating to marriage licensing. Having couples apply for their marriage licenses should be done in person. Should you open this up to registering and paying for a marriage license online, it will be susceptible to abuse of the system by those who are not serious about applying for a marriage license. In addition, how would the state ensure that the process of vetting a couple is truth if there are online applications for a marriage license? If online, how do you ensure that there is no fraud in the application without each person standing in front of a DOH employee to personally justify their true identities with the required authorized documents? Please vote NO.



**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 11:44:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2435 on the grounds that this bill is poorly written. As much as the need for efficiency and convenience is a desire of most, not enough time has been spent to compile a program free of corruption and fraud. As a resident of Hawaii I fear that the mishandling of a marriage can cause harms to those who are underage, illegal, elderly and handicapped. We have had such a large increase of our resident population since covid however that doesnt mean we should be cutting corners. We all understand the need however we shouldn't compromise the health and well being of all involved. With the increase of sex trafficking of minors and all people, we must safeguard the most vulnerable. It is imperative that in-person interviews take place. Kill this bill and resubmit when more time and more thought has been given to protect and respect others in this process.

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 3:56:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-2435**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:04:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose HB2435 due to it's dangerous nature that would further undergo the already fragile marriage system that is being removed altogether. Their needs to a thorough of definition of terms in this legislation as well as a detailed description of the boundaries of this bill as well as one needs to pursue the heavy future drawbacks that this would take place for future generations.