



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'aina

TO: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor

RE: Testimony for S.B. 828 – Relating to the Certification of Documents

DATE: February 22, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of S.B. 828, S.D. 1 with a proposed amendment to re-insert the original fee increase of the apostille or certification amount to \$10 as originally introduced in S.B. 828.** S.B. 828, S.D. 1 contains a blanked out amount for the fee for the issuance of an apostille or certification and establishes the apostilles and certifications special fund.

As Secretary of State, the Lieutenant Governor annually provides approximately 7,500 authentication services for all public and general documents that are used overseas including powers of attorney, marriage certificates, birth certificates, divorce decrees, probated and un-probated wills, judgments, agreements, transcripts, and more. In the short period that I have been in office, my staff and I have witnessed firsthand that the current system is archaic and does not serve the public as intended. Since our office is unable to accept credit card or web-based payment, those seeking an apostille or certification must either pay \$1 in cash or obtain a cashier's check that most banks charge \$15 to process. If there are errors in dropped-off paper applications that require our office to mail documents back to the applicant, our office pays between 60 cents to \$2.00 per return. Lastly, if an applicant is out-of-country, they do not have the ability to purchase US postage and cannot provide a self-addressed stamped envelope, resulting in our office paying between \$1.45 - \$4.00 per international mailing. Passage of this measure will ensure that my office has sufficient funding to execute its constitutional obligations without burdening the state treasury.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of S.B. 828.