



SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'āina

32nd Legislature, State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Government Operations
March 14, 2024

Testimony on
H.B. 2480 - RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of H.B. 2480** which establishes the apostilles and certifications special fund and requires the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to set a fee for the issuance of an apostille or a certification by administrative rules.

Last year, our office provided approximately 10,800 authentication services – a 44% increase over the prior year – and anticipates processing a similar, if not higher, amount this year. These services authenticate a wide array of documents for international use, including powers of attorney, marriage certificates, birth certificates, divorce decrees, probated and un-probated wills, judgments, agreements, and transcripts, among others. During my tenure as Lieutenant Governor, it has become evident that our current system is outdated and fails to effectively meet the public's needs. Our office does not have the capability to accept credit cards or web-based payment, which means those seeking an apostille or certification must either pay \$1 in cash or procure a cashier's check, which financial institutions typically charge \$15 to issue. If there are errors in dropped-off paper applications that require our office to mail documents back to the applicant, our office shoulders the cost which varies between 60 cents to \$2.00 per return. For applicants living abroad who are unable to purchase U.S. postage for a self-addressed stamped envelope, our office incurs the cost which ranges between \$1.45 - \$4.00 per international mailing. Passage of this measure will ensure that our office can execute its constitutional obligations and modernize its processes to best serve the public in a cost-effective and convenient manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 2480.