

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 650

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 16, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1240
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1240
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF VITAL STATISTICS
RECORDS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill to permit law enforcement officers
to obtain vital statistics records from the Department of Health
if the records are necessary for an official criminal
investigation and if the request is signed under penalty of
criminal prosecution for false swearing in official matters.

The Department of the Attorney General, the Honolulu Police
Department, and the County of Hawaii Police Department submitted
testimony in support of this measure.

Under current law, law enforcement officers cannot obtain
vital statistics records from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that in certain limited circumstances it
is important to provide law enforcement officers with vital
statistics records to facilitate a timely investigation of a
crime. For example, during a homicide investigation, obtaining
the death certificate of the victim can be important to decide
which statutes are applicable to a possible charge; and, the same
is true when the age of the victim or the perpetrator in sexual
assault cases has to be determined.

HB1240 HD1 HSCR LRB 07-2330.doc



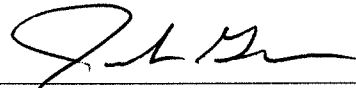
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Your Committee supports providing vital statistics records to law enforcement personnel because of the limitations to certain, restricted circumstances in which the records are available and the inclusion of the requirement of a signed request for the records, attaching criminal penalties for their misuse. This statutory amendment will facilitate the goal of investigating crimes in a timely manner.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to January 1, 2050 in order to promote continued discussion of the matter.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1240, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1240, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



JOSHUA B. GREEN, M.D., Chair



