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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FRAUD PREVENTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every notary public  
2 must keep an engraved seal of office or a rubber stamp facsimile  
3 seal that clearly shows, when embossed, stamped, or impressed  
4 upon a document, the notary's name and the words, "notary  
5 public" and "State of Hawaii." The notary public must  
6 authenticate all the notary's official acts, attestations,  
7 certificates, and instruments and always add to an official  
8 signature the typed or printed name of the notary and a  
9 statement showing the date that the notary's commission expires.  
10           The legislature also finds that each time a notary public  
11 notarizes a document, the notary public must record the type,  
12 date, and time of day of the notarial act, the title or type and  
13 date of the document or proceeding, the signature, printed name,  
14 and address of each person whose signature is notarized and of  
15 each witness, other parties to the instrument, and the manner in  
16 which the signer was identified. All copies or certificates  
17 granted by the notary must be under the notary's hand and



1 notarial seal and shall be received as evidence of such  
2 transactions.

3       The legislature further finds that, notwithstanding the  
4 requirements that attend notarization of documents, there is an  
5 alarming increase in the alteration of notarized documents for  
6 the purpose of identity theft and fraud. For example, a Hawaii  
7 man with a federal criminal record involving bank fraud, bogus  
8 names, and false checks was recently convicted of identity theft  
9 and other offenses arising from the use of a notarized document  
10 relating to the sale of an automobile to transfer land and  
11 property.

12       The purpose of this Act is to ensure that notarized  
13 documents can not be altered by substituting material that does  
14 not relate to the document to which the notarial seal originally  
15 was applied.

16       SECTION 2. Section 456-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18       "**§456-3 Seal[~~er~~]; placement.** (a) Every notary public  
19 shall constantly keep an engraved seal of office or a rubber  
20 stamp facsimile seal [~~which~~] that shall clearly show, when  
21 embossed, stamped, or impressed upon a document, the notary's  
22 name, and the words[~~er~~] "notary public" and "State of Hawaii".



1 The notary public shall authenticate all the notary's official  
2 acts, attestations, certificates, and instruments therewith[7]  
3 and shall always add to an official signature the typed or  
4 printed name of the notary and a statement showing the date that  
5 the notary's commission expires. The notary public shall  
6 emboss, stamp, or impress the notary's seal over a succinct  
7 phrase describing the document.

8 (b) Upon resignation, death, expiration of term of office  
9 without reappointment, or removal from or abandonment of office,  
10 [~~the notary public shall immediately deliver~~] the notary's seal  
11 shall immediately be delivered to the attorney general who shall  
12 deface or destroy the same. If any notary fails to comply with  
13 this section within ninety days of the date of the notary's  
14 resignation, expiration of term of office without reappointment,  
15 or removal from or abandonment of office or if the notary's  
16 personal representative fails to comply with this section within  
17 ninety days of the notary's death, then the notary public or the  
18 notary's personal representative shall forfeit to the State not  
19 more than \$200, in the discretion of the court, to be recovered  
20 in an action to be brought by the attorney general on behalf of  
21 the State."



1 SECTION 3. Section 456-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§456-8 Rules.** The attorney general, subject to chapter  
4 91, may prescribe such rules as the attorney general deems  
5 advisable concerning the administration of this chapter, the  
6 appointment and duties of notaries public, [~~and~~] the duties of  
7 other officers thereunder[-], and such measures as may be  
8 necessary to prevent the fraudulent use of a notarized document  
9 after placement of the notary's seal. The rules shall have the  
10 force and effect of law."

11 SECTION 4. Section 456-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "**§456-15 Record; copies as evidence.** Every notary public  
14 shall record at length in a book of records all acts, protests,  
15 depositions, and other things, by the notary noted or done in  
16 the notary's official capacity. For each official act, the  
17 notary shall enter in the book:

- 18 (1) The type, date, and time of day of the notarial act;  
19 (2) The title or type and date of the document or  
20 proceeding[+] and the nature of the act, transaction,  
21 or thing to which the document relates;



1 (3) The signature, printed name, and address of each  
2 person whose signature is notarized and of each  
3 witness;

4 (4) Other parties to the instrument; and

5 (5) The manner in which the signer was identified.

6 All copies or certificates granted by the notary shall be under  
7 the notary's hand and notarial seal[-] and shall be received as  
8 evidence of such transactions."

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall not apply to any document  
10 notarized prior to its effective date.

11 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Fraud Prevention; Notary Public

**Description:**

Requires notary public to place seal over a succinct phrase describing document being notarized and to separately record a description of the document. Authorizes attorney general to adopt rules to prevent fraudulent use of notarized documents.

