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Is Barack Obama’s Birth Certificate Fake?

"We hope that issuing certified copies of the original Certificate of Live Birth to President Obama will end the numerous inquiries related to his birth in Hawaii," Hawaii Health Director Loretta Fuddy said.

By [David Mikkelson](#)
Published 27 August 2011



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degrees.

Claim

Barack Obama's birth certificate is a forgery.

Example

I read that Obama will not release his birth certificate. Have heard rumors it's because he is listed as white. Or that because he isn't a U.S. born citizen.

Collected via e-mail, June 2008

Rating

False

[About this rating](#)

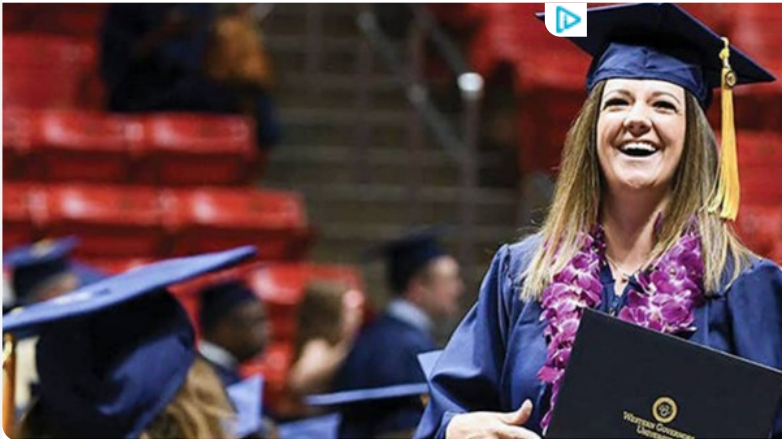
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Origin

In April 2011, President Barack Obama sought to put end to rumors claiming that he was not a natural-born citizen of the United States by obtaining and releasing a copy of his [long form](#) birth certificate issued by the state of Hawaii. Officials from that state [certified](#) that the copy of the certificate they provided to President Obama was authentic:

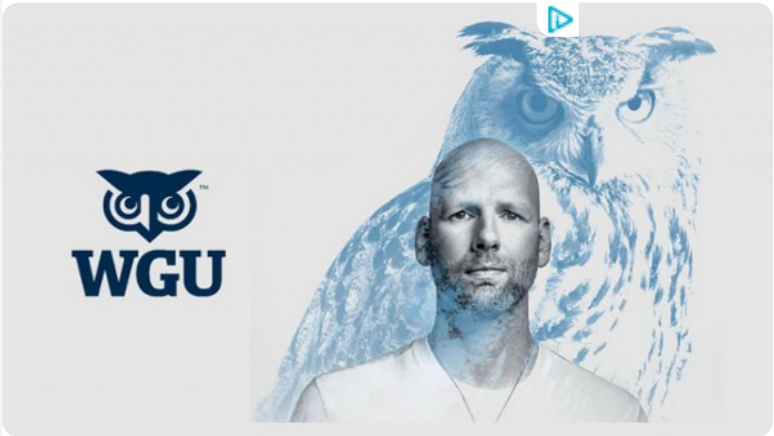
copies of his original Certificate of Live Birth, which is sometimes referred to in the media as a “long form” birth certificate.

“We hope that issuing certified copies of the original Certificate of Live Birth to President Obama will end the numerous inquiries related to his birth in Hawaii,” Hawaii Health Director Loretta Fuddy said. “I have seen the original records filed at the Department of Health and attest to the authenticity of the certified copies the department provided to the President that further prove the fact that he was born in Hawaii.”

On April 25, 2011, pursuant to President Obama’s request, Director Fuddy personally witnessed the copying of the original Certificate of Live Birth and attested to the authenticity of the two copies. Dr. Alvin Onaka, the State Registrar, certified the copies.

STATE OF HAWAII		CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH		DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
		FILE NUMBER 151		61 10641	
1a. Child's First Name (Type or print)		1b. Middle Name		1c. Last Name	
BARACK		HUSSEIN		OBAMA, II	
2. Sex	3. This Birth	4. If Twin or Triplet, Was Child Born		5a. Birth Date	5b. Hour
Male	Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Triplet <input type="checkbox"/>	1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/>		August 4, 1961	7:24 P.M.
6a. Place of Birth: City, Town or Rural Location				6b. Island	
Honolulu				Oahu	
6c. Name of Hospital or Institution (If not in hospital or institution, give street address)				6d. Is Place of Birth Inside City or Town Limits?	
Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital				Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
7a. Usual Residence of Mother: City, Town or Rural Location		7b. Island		7c. County and State or Foreign Country	
Honolulu		Oahu		Honolulu, Hawaii	
7d. Street Address				7e. Is Residence Inside City or Town Limits?	
6085 Kalaniana'ole Highway				Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
7f. Mother's Mailing Address				7g. Is Residence on a Farm or Plantation?	
				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Full Name of Father		9. Race of Father			
BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA		African			
10. Age of Father	11. Birthplace (Island, State or Foreign Country)	12a. Usual Occupation		12b. Kind of Business or Industry	
25	Kenya, East Africa	Student		University	
13. Full Maiden Name of Mother		14. Race of Mother			
STANLEY ANN DUNHAM		Caucasian			
15. Age of Mother	16. Birthplace (Island, State or Foreign Country)	17a. Type of Occupation Outside Home During Pregnancy		17b. Date Last Worked	
18	Wichita, Kansas	None			
18a. Signature of Parent or Other Informant		18b. Date of Signature			
		8-7-61			
19a. Signature of Attendant		19b. Date of Signature			
		8-8-61			
20. Date Accepted by Local Reg.		21. Signature of Local Registrar		22. Date Accepted by Reg. General	
AUG - 8 1961				AUG - 8 1961	
23. Evidence for Delayed Filing or Alteration					

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As they had with the [Certification of Live Birth](#) made public by the Obama campaign in June 2008, birthers immediately claimed that the long form birth certificate was also a forgery. The primary arguments advanced to demonstrate that the certificate was forged were claims that

was opened with Adobe Illustrator proved that it had been altered. All of these arguments are erroneous. The claims of anachronism stemmed from three elements in the certificate.

1. Back in 1961 people of color were called ‘Negroes.’ So how can the Obama ‘birth certificate’ state he is ‘African-American’ when the term wasn’t even used at that time?
2. The birth certificate that the White House released lists Obama’s birth as August 4, 1961. It also lists Barack Hussein Obama as his father. No big deal, right? At the time of Obama’s birth, it also shows that his father is aged 25 years old, and that Obama’s father was born in “Kenya, East Africa”. This wouldn’t seem like anything of concern, except the fact that Kenya did not even exist until 1963, two whole years after Obama’s birth, and 27 years after his father’s birth. How could Obama’s father have been born in a country that did not yet exist? Up and until Kenya was formed in 1963, it was known as the “British East Africa Protectorate”.
3. On the birth certificate released by the White House, the listed place of birth is “Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital”. This cannot be, because the hospital(s) in question in 1961 were called “Kauai Keolani Children’s Hospital” and “Kapi’olani Maternity Home”, respectively. The name did not change to Kapi’olani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital until 1978, when these two hospitals merged. How can this particular name of the hospital be on a birth certificate dated 1961 if this name had not yet been applied to it until 1978?

Claims that these elements are anachronistic to 1961 (the year of Barack Obama’s birth) are incorrect:

- Nowhere on Barack Obama’s birth certificate does the term “African-American” appear. The space for “Race of Father” is filled in with the word “African,” which at the time was a descriptor that blacks who were actually native-born Africans (like Barack Obama’s father was) were more likely to use for themselves than “negro” (the latter being synonymous with “slave” in Euro-colonial countries such as Kenya).
- In 1895 the British Empire established the East Africa Protectorate, the forerunner of the country now known as the republic of Kenya. Although Kenya did not achieve complete independence from the United Kingdom until 1963, it was known as the Kenya Colony from 1920 onwards and was typically referred to as Kenya long before 1963. A search of news reports from 1961 (the year of Barack Obama’s birth) turns up hundreds and hundreds of news articles referencing that entity simply as “Kenya.”
- The former Kapi’olani Maternity Home became the Kapi’olani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital (where Barack Obama was born) in 1931, and it retained that appellation until 1971, when its name was shortened to Kapi’olani Hospital. The Kauikeolani Children’s Hospital (where Barack Obama was not born) was a separate entity which merged with the Kapi’olani Hospital in 1978 to become the Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children.A listing of social services available in the Hawaiian islands documents that the facility bore that name prior to 1961:

024 KAPIOLANI HOSPITAL, 1979 TO 1973:
KAPIOLANI HOSPITAL, 1319 PUNAHOU ST.,
96826, 1972: SAME NAME, 1611 BINGHAM ST.,
96814; USED FOR DELIVERY OF PATIENTS
FROM THE SALVATION ARMY BOOTH UN-
WED PARENTS PROGRAMS [SEE ENTRY 015].
1958: KAPIOLANI MATERNITY AND GYNEC-
OLOGICAL HOSPITAL, 1611 BINGHAM ST.; 115
BEDS. 1937: SAME NAME, PUNAHOU AND
BINGHAM STS.; 687 BIRTHS IN 1935; PRIOR
TO 1931, IT WAS CALLED THE KAPIOLANI
MATERNITY HOME; ESTABLISHED IN 1891.
1925: KAPIOLANI MATERNITY HOME, 1538
BERETANIA AVE.; 25 BEDS. NAMESAKE: THE
DOWAGER QUEEN KAPIOLANI, WHO HELPED
ESTABLISH THE HOME.
CASE HISTORIES: A NATURAL MOTHER

As for the argument that opening the birth certificate’s PDF file in Adobe Illustrator reveals the presence of multiple layers, which proves that the image was altered, that claim was debunked by an [Adobe-certified expert](#):

It didn’t take long for some of President Obama’s doubters to claim the long-awaited birth certificate posted online by the White House had been altered or might be a fake. The doubters have latched onto the idea that Adobe Illustrator — the premier program for computer graphic artists — “reveals” evidence of document manipulation in the Obama birth certificate. They note Illustrator reveals nine separate layers of the document, and claim it’s “proof” the file has been altered.

But that’s not so, says Jean-Claude Tremblay, a leading software trainer and Adobe-certified expert, who has years of experience working with and teaching Adobe Illustrator.

He said the layers cited by doubters are evidence of the use of common, off-the-shelf scanning software — not evidence of a forgery. “I have seen a lot of illustrator documents that come from photos and contain those kind of clippings — and it looks exactly like this,” he said.

Tremblay explained that the scanner optical character recognition (OCR) software attempts to translate characters or words in a photograph into text. He said the layers cited by the doubters shows that software at work — and nothing more.

“When you open it in Illustrator it looks like layers, but it doesn’t look like someone built it from scratch. If someone made a fake it wouldn’t look like this,” he said. “Some scanning software is trying to separate the background and the text and splitting element into layers and parts of layers.”

Tremblay also said that during the scanning process, instances where the software was unable to separate text fully from background led to the creation of a separate layer within the document. This could be places where a signature runs over the line of background, or typed characters touch the internal border of the document.

“I know that you can scan a document from a scanner [and] most of the time it will appear as one piece, but that doesn’t mean that there’s no software that’s doing this kind of stuff,” he said, adding that it’s really quite common.

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John Woodman, author of *Is Barack Obama’s Birth Certificate a Fraud?: A Computer Guy Examines The Evidence for Forgery.*, also debunked the “layers” argument in a series of videos:

Arpaio produced no new evidence demonstrating that document to be a forgery; that entity’s report by Mara Zebest simply recycled old arguments that had long since been thoroughly **debunked** in detail. Likewise, a July 2012 **announcement** from Sheriff Arpaio repeated more rumors that had already been debunked.

By **David Mikkelson**
Published 27 August 2011

[barack obama](#) [birth certificate](#) [birther](#)

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