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February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2162 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, and requests the Legislature appropriate the entire \$2 million requested in the Executive Budget to include assistance with obtaining government identification in homeless outreach services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to the DHS Homeless Programs Office to develop or expand homeless services to include assistance and public outreach for individuals to obtain and maintain government issued identification (ID).

The working group created by Act 243 (2015) learned that with the passage of the federal REAL ID ACT, Pub. L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302 (2005), obtaining and maintaining REAL ID compliant ID requires individuals to possess and maintain their vital records to establish one's identity and principal address. Community legal services providers that assist homeless individuals with obtaining government issued ID reported to the Act 243 working group that individuals have difficulty obtaining certified copies of vital records that establish their identity because they lack the financial means to pay requisite fees and individuals require assistance, including civil legal services, to navigate multiple government, most often out-of-state and foreign country, records

systems. There is currently limited private funding available for document fees and there are often periods of delay to wait for funds to become available to pay for document fees.

The Social Security Administration identifies assisting disabled homeless individuals secure government ID as a key strategy to assist homeless applicants for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits, see

https://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness/docs/Final_Key-Strategies-for-Connecting-People-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf.

DHS asks the committee to support the entire Executive Budget request of \$2 million to enhance homeless outreach efforts. At the time the budget request was prepared, the Act 243 working group had not issued recommendations, and cost and fees for this added outreach service to assist with government ID were not included in the budget request. It is important for homeless outreach service providers to have adequate resources to provide outreach services, including the resources to assist homeless individuals to pay for replacement documents and obtain government issued ID; DHS requires the entire \$2 million request identified in the Executive to procure the array of outreach services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
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DAVID Y. IGE
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February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: HB 2162 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it addresses an identified barrier that negatively impacts the ability of many homeless individuals to access housing. However, the Coordinator's support of this measure is limited to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services in regards to specific issues related to implementation of the proposed service. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, the Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office (HPO) is responsible for the administration and implementation of homeless programs.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to HPO for services to obtain government issued identification.

There are a variety of factors that contribute to the difficulty homeless individuals face in attempting to obtain government issued photo identification. According to service providers, many homeless individuals lack the supporting documents necessary to verify their identity, such as a Social Security Card or Birth Certificate. To add to this difficulty, photo identification is sometimes required to obtain these other identification documents. In addition, service providers report that many homeless individuals lacking

photo identification or supporting documents are from out-of-state, and each state or community may have a different process or set of fees necessary to obtain a Birth Certificate or other identification documents.

The Coordinator notes that the Governor's Executive Budget request includes \$2 million to expand homeless outreach services statewide, and asks for the Legislature's support of this request. Homeless outreach providers offer a wide range of services to unsheltered homeless individuals, including assistance in obtaining identification and other necessary documents. The additional funding requested for homeless outreach would increase the capacity to provide support in obtaining identification, as well as assistance with housing search and the completion of applications for housing and other public benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Helping Hands Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2162: RELATING TO HOUSING WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Committee on Human Services
Members of the Human Services Committee

FROM: Jan Harada, CEO, Helping Hands Hawaii

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 9:00am; CR 329.

Chair Morikawa and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB2162, which proposes to provide funding to the Department of Human Services, Homeless Programs Office, to expand on existing homeless outreach services to include a targeted focus on obtaining proper government-issued identification with funding to pay for the document fees.

Helping Hands Hawaii has been involved in working with homeless individuals and families for many years through our health and human service programs and community supports. Our services for homeless have included access to needed public benefits (primarily SNAP), case management, day treatment/intensive outpatient, representative payee services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness (many of whom also struggle with substance use disorders), emergency financial assistance and financial literacy/education.

Funding to support acquiring of critical identification documents would be a significant support to those individuals obtaining housing as well as gaining access to other critical services such as employment, healthcare, education, and needed public benefits.

Additionally, we would recommend that the additional funding allocated to the Homeless Programs Office include sufficient funding to cover assistance from non-profit legal organizations to assist in those instances where individuals are struggling with trying to establish/prove their identity in the first place. This recommendation stems from the fact that in some instances, individuals are unable to access government-issued IDs not only because they do not have the funds or the knowledge and support, but because they struggle to prove/establish who they are in the first place. As some of our clients and consumers have experienced, that challenge is much more difficult than gaining the ID and requires additional legal assistance to navigate the various systems, rules, and regulations.

Lastly, we encourage you to ensure that additional funding provided to the Homeless Programs Office to administer this additional component, comes with any needed/corresponding expenditures (staffing, supplies, etc.) that may be needed in order to administer this.

We urge your support for this basic component of addressing homelessness in our communities.