

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 845, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ALTERNATIVES TO IDENTIFICATION

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **appreciates the intent** of House Bill (HB) 845, House Drive (HD) 1 and offers the following comments.

The Department acknowledges the difficulties encountered by soon-to-be-released inmates in overcoming the hurdles of obtaining valid government-issued identification (ID), essential to living and working in the community, and has taken various actions, as well as, continues to act to improve processing procedures.

Currently, PSD collaborates with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Social Security Administration, and the appropriate County agencies to assist offenders in obtaining valid government-issued identification. It should be noted that the current process requires that an application for an ID card be made in person, therefore, limiting the issuance of said IDs to offenders who are community custody and enrolled in the furlough program at a Community Correctional Center. Moreover, offenders

who are indigent face a nearly insurmountable barrier to obtaining IDs, as they lack the financial resources to pay for the required fees.

The Department notes that the processing of ID applications at correctional facilities would greatly increase the efficiency of the process to the benefit of incarcerated offenders not on furlough, and the waiver of fees for indigent offenders would remove another barrier to applying for IDs.

To that end, PSD respectfully suggests that HB 845, HD 1 be amended to include the following language on page 1, line 16:

“The applicable state and county agencies shall provide these services at the Correctional Facility, free of charge, by waiving all fees for indigent inmates to obtain their birth certificate and any other relevant identification documents.”

The objective would be to provide assistance to inmates by focusing the intended benefits and services on the appropriate target inmate population and increase the efficiency of the process by providing sufficient time to deal with delays inherent in shepherding paperwork through multiple agencies. The Correctional Facilities are able to provide adequate space and access for the applications services, but are wholly unable to provide large-scale, secure transport for the numbers of inmates who would be eligible to apply for government IDs under this measure.

Finally, the Department respectfully recommends that the Legislature consider incorporating a fee waiver or a voucher system as a part of HB 845, HD 1 to assist indigent inmates with the costs of obtaining relevant documents and identification, and to appropriate sufficient funds to the impacted agencies to ensure success in meeting the objectives of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
INTERIM CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
MICHAEL A. TOWN
ANNELLE C. AMARAL
FITUINA F. TUA
MEMBERS

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HB 845, HD1
RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION**

By
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Interim Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 15, 2017- 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports the intent of House Bill 845, HDI, Relating to Identification. This bill will assist inmates in obtaining proper identification/ documentation necessary for employment, housing, financial assistance, and parole and/or completion of sentence.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 845, HD1.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventua, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by
Sidney Nakamoto
Probation Administrator, First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 845, House Draft 1, Relating to Identification.

Purpose: Requires the Department of Public Safety in collaboration with county and state agencies to issue civil identification cards to inmates and to assist inmates in obtaining their birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society. (HB845 HD1)

Judiciary's Position:

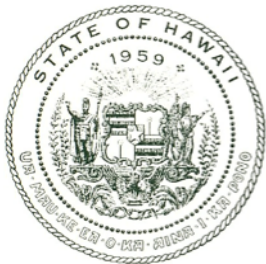
The Judiciary supports the intent of this bill since it addresses a significant challenge when an inmate is released from prison without identification. Without proper identification, an individual is faced with many obstacles when trying to transition back into the community. It affects not only inmates who are released from prison, but also offenders released from jail back in to the community without identification.

The effects on probation clients who are released from jail without proper identification include delays in important services such as medical care, substance abuse treatment, housing, and employment. For these probation clients, services are delayed months until they are able to get an identification card, and many probationers end up homeless due to lack of identification.

All offenders who are close to completing their sentences would benefit from assistance through the Department of Public Services to obtain a civil identification card prior to their release from jail or prison, as proposed in House Bill 845, House Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

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Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

February 15, 2017

LATE

To: Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Cathy Betts
Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: LATE Testimony in Support, HB 845, HD1, Relating to Public Safety

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 845, HD1, which would require the Department of Public Safety to assist in providing civil identification cards, social security cards, and birth certificates for inmates.

Inmates and those transitioning out of incarceration require identification for basic life activities: including obtaining employment, cashing a check, and obtaining housing. Unfortunately, inmates' belongings, including state identification, drivers licenses, social security cards, etc. are routinely thrown away and destroyed during incarceration. After 30 days of incarceration, it remains the routine for DPS to destroy all personal belongings except the clothing a person may have been arrested in. This poses a significant barrier to those transitioning out of incarceration, who need to find housing, obtain treatment, obtain employment, and otherwise begin their life anew. The process to obtain a birth certificate or state identification is lengthy and can often take months. Some individuals may turn to illegal means to perform basic life activities (i.e. driving without a license to get to court and treatment, using a fictitious social security number to obtain employment, etc.)

Posing detrimental barriers to inmates transitioning out of incarceration has a direct effect on recidivism. HB 845, HD1 would require a simple remedy to this problem. This bill would allow inmates and those transitioning out of incarceration to obtain state identification and birth certificates. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.



HB845 HD1
RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION
House Committee on Judiciary

February 15, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB845 HD1, which would provide critical support for pa‘ahao seeking to reintegrate into society upon their release.

The Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force (NHJTF), in preparing its 2012 report, interviewed many pa‘ahao detained at Hālawā Correctional Facility. During these interviews, many pa‘ahao revealed that they did not know where their official state-issued identification could be found.¹ Notably, state-issued identification may be necessary for pa‘ahao to apply for employment, find housing, comply with conditions of parole, and apply for other services for themselves and their families – important steps towards their successful reintegration into the community upon release.

In its 2012 report, the NHJTF made several recommendations on how best to support incarcerated and reentering pa‘ahao in their rehabilitation and stable reintegration into society. These included a recommendation that “[t]he Department of Public Safety should ensure that prior to work furlough and/or release, all inmates obtain official state identification and if needed, a social security card.”²

Accordingly, OHA supports this measure as a critical means to facilitate the successful reintegration of pa‘ahao, and further suggests that the Committee consider expanding its provisions to include inmates participating in work furlough and community placement programs, consistent with the NHJTF’s recommendation.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB845 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

¹ The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, *Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report* 23 n. 28 (2012), http://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf.

² *Id.* at 29.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:26 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15m 2017

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

HB 845 SUPPORT w AMENDMENT - IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the approximately 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports HB 845 HD1 with amendments:

1. Please include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification.
2. This process should be **initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**.

As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

Lack of identification is the biggest barrier to reentry for people exiting incarceration. That Hawai'i releases people with no identification and no money is criminal. It places every released person who has nowhere to go in jeopardy of being arrested.

Although the department says they do not throw out the personal property of the people in their custody we know, from the many calls and stories we have heard, that this is not true.

A recent call we received was of a man jailed for 5 months whose wallet and identification was "missing" or thrown out upon his release. He is in a halfway house, has a job, got paid and cannot cash his check because he has no identification. Now that makes no sense. These are administrative things that the department should be sanctioned for. Throwing out personal property (or whatever happens to it) should not be allowed.

Since this is happening, perhaps the legislature should levy a penalty for every person released without their personal property, identification card, birth certificate, social security card and any other form of identification that is routinely required.

We are happy that the bill includes reporting requirements by the department to the Legislature and it would be great to include how often personal property goes missing and take appropriate action to ensure that this does not continue.

If we truly believe in supporting those reentering the community after incarceration, we will work to erase the many silly and fixable barriers that these folks confront. Identification is front and center in this skirmish!

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the community to pass HB 845 HD1 with the adoption of our amendments to include those released on work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement 90 days before they are placed on any of these statuses.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*"Imprisonment has become the response of first resort
to far too many of our social problems."*

Angela Davis

February 14, 2017

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845

Thank you Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 845. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill.

Many people returning to the community from incarceration are doing so without an ID. Without an ID, people are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. House Bill 845 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release.

Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.



Noriko Namiki
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA O'ahu

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845

Thank you Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members,

The YWCA O'ahu **supports the intent of House Bill 845**, which would require the Department of Public Safety and county and state agencies to assist inmates with obtaining identification.

Identification is an important piece for people leaving prison and transitioning into the community. The YWCA manages the state's only community based women's work furlough program and we have witnessed the negative impact lack of identification can have. Without ID a woman (or any person) cannot secure employment or open a bank account-two vital pieces for successful reentry. Requiring inmates have identification prior to their release is a common sense policy that benefits the individual, community, and state.

House bill 845 would remove one of the most significant obstacles for reentry. However, as the bill is written, it does not seem to include many people who would be best served by receiving an ID prior to transition. I request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

The Department of Justice and former Attorney General Lynch acknowledged identification as necessary for successful reentry. Across the country, several states have passed similar legislation addressing identification and reentry. In Hawaii, many working within the criminal justice system have noted how lack of ID is problematic. House bill 845 is an opportunity to solve this problem. Passing this bill would make jobs, housing, bank accounts, cashing a check, and the library accessible for a large group of people. A person could begin their road to self-sufficiency on day one of their release, not weeks or months later when they finally receive their ID.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier. For these reasons, the YWCA O'ahu **respectfully requests that this committee report the bill with amendment favorably on House bill 845**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

Kathleen Algire
Advocacy Coordinator
YWCA O'ahu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:04 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dabitbol@chowproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments: The CHOW Project supports HB 845 HD1 with amendments: 1. Please include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. 2. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses.

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**African American Lawyers Association
1188 Bishop St. #1908
Honolulu, HI 96813**

2-14-17

**Committee on Judiciary
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair**

**RE: Testimony In Support Related to Identification HB845, HP 1
Hearing February 15, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Room 325**

Dear Chair Representative Nishimoto, Vice Chair Representative Buenaventura and Committee Members:

The African American Lawyers Association supports HB 845 which assists inmates who are released from prison to obtain civil identification cards and birth certificates and relevant identification which is necessary for successful reentry. I personally know some former inmates who have come to my office requesting assistance because they cannot obtain their identification and as a result have difficulty in getting a job, transitioning to the work force and to also assist with obtaining housing and social services. This Bill will ensure that they will be assisted in obtaining necessary identification.

We request that the bill be amended to start the process 90 days before an inmate is released. This time frame will allow the identification process to start so that it may be completed by the time the inmate is released. We also request that furloughed inmates and those in temporary placement be included. Thank you.

By Daphne E. Barbee Wooten
President
African American Lawyers Association



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
2:00 pm
Conference Room 325

HB 845, HD1 RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION

SUPPORT, PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 47 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety in collaboration with county and state agencies to issue civil identification cards to inmates and to assist inmates in obtaining their birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society.

Proposed Amendment: HRS "§346-A Homeless protections; personal property; identification; recovery. (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, it shall be unlawful for any state or county agency to confiscate government-issued identification documents and medicine.

This would prevent DPS from issuing the identification, only to have the identification thrown out during a homeless sweep; a practice which occurs today.

Mahalo,
Henry Curtis, Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:47 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Burdick808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan B Burdick	Progressive Democrats of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Progressive Democrats of Hawaii strongly supports this bill, which is an essential aid for incarcerated persons as they re-enter society. They need identification papers and they need assistance in getting those papers. PDH supports amendment of this bill to ensure that people on EARLY RELEASE are given these papers, and not just those who serve out their terms. We support an amendment that requires the Department of Public Safety to begin the process at least 90 days before release or early release. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Alan B. Burdick, Chair Progressive Democrats of Hawaii

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
TIME: 2:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 325

Subject: Strong support (with an amendment) for HB 845 HD1

Good afternoon Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Buenaventura and members of the Committee.

My name is Lorraine Robinson. I am a consultant for the YWCA of Oahu work furlough program for women exiting prison. For over 20 years, I served as Executive Director of TJ Mahoney & Associates (previous contractor for the women's work furlough contract). Having worked with women exiting prison for over two decades, I am certain this bill will help enhance the odds for successful reentry. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support **HB 845 HD1**.

I also request that the Bill be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

Even with proper ID, reentry from prison to the community is a daunting endeavor. Presently the majority of women in our program arrive without proper ID and can spend an inordinate amount of time obtaining identification. If ID was procured prior to their arrival at the program, it would expedite their being able successfully navigate the myriad tasks of reestablishing themselves as productive and contributing community members, most especially including securing employment.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill (with the proposed amendment) supports people in reclaiming their lives and contributing to the community in meaningful ways. Successful community reentry for offenders means safer communities for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; please support this most important piece of legislation with the above referenced amendment.

Late Testimony

LATE

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

Subject: Please support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members,

My name is Talia Cardines, I am the manager at YWCA Oahu's Fernhurst Residence and I am writing in **support of HB 845**.

I also request that HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

At YWCA Fernhurst, we serve women transitioning from prison into the community through our work furlough and Homebase transition program. The majority of our population includes women who are either on work furlough, extended work furlough, parole, or those who have recently maxed out. I have worked with women transitioning from prison into the community for ten (10) years.

As you know, to work legally in Hawaii, two forms of ID are required; at least a valid photo ID and social security card. No legal identification, no legal employment. Many of those transitioning out of the prison system do not have these two forms of ID. Navigating the current system on Oahu can be daunting, time consuming, and discouraging. Depending on the individual's situation, this process can take anywhere from two (2) months and in the most extreme case I've seen, up to a year. The longer situations usually involve those that have been in prison longer or those who were born outside of Hawaii.

With your support of **House Bill 845** (with an amendment), re-entry can begin well before they walk out of the prison gates. With a photo ID and social security card in hand, they will be able to gain legal employment, open up a bank account (for many, it will be their first time), pay and file taxes, and access health care. These are essential starting points for re-entry.

Mahalo very much for the opportunity to testify.

Talia Cardines (ph: 808-941-2231 ext. 0)

TESTIMONY:

LATE

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2 PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

Subject: Position Statement Support House Bill 845

Thank you Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members,

I am writing in **support of HB 845**. My name is Roshian Lafaele. I am the Assistant Manager for the YWCA of Oahu work furlough program. I have been working with women transitioning from prison to the community since 2010. Over the years, the process of obtaining legal documents (birth certificate, social security card and ID) have not improved. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support SB 1039.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

Our work furlough program is a minimum of 6 months. The women coming out of prison to the program will take at least 2-4 weeks to go through the process of obtaining all legal documents. This causes a delay in starting their program. In order to obtain employment, women must have a valid social security card and an ID. With this bill, it can help women prepare for the community life after prison.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill (with the proposed amendment) supports people in reclaiming their lives and contributing to the community in meaningful ways. Successful community reentry for offenders means safer communities for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; please support this most important piece of legislation with the above referenced amendment.

LATE

TESTIMONY SAMPLE:

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 15, 2017, 2PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

My name is Kelcie Watson. I am a case manager at the YWCA Oahu, working with women in the work furlough program, Ka Hale Ho'ala Hou No Na Wahine. I have been working with this population for approximately four years, both as an intern and as an employee. I am writing in support of HB 845, which addresses just one barrier amongst many, but it is one that can ultimately affect the quality of life and successful transition from prison into the community. HB 845 will allow people the ability to access essential services and support in a timely manner, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill.

Obtaining identification can be an extensive, costly, and extremely stressful process for a lot of people being released from prison. Most times, people come out of prison without any type of identification because it was either lost, thrown away, or expired while they were incarcerated. Not having any type of documentation creates a major barrier for an individual. The entire process is what people would call a "catch-22." In order to obtain a social security card, you must have an ID. In order to obtain an ID, you must have a social security card and it seems that the process continues to get more complicated as the years pass.

The time gap between their release from prison and obtaining identification can be the very thing that sends an individual back to prison as they may resort to illegal activities to get their basic needs met (i.e. steal food, sell drugs, etc.).

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill (with the proposed amendment) supports people in gaining stability and improving quality of life.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:37 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:12 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: barbarapolk@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and members: The recidivism rate for Hawaii is extremely high. While we think about needing new jails and prisons and send prisoners to the mainland, we need to shift our focus onto how to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals. Providing Social Security cards, Identification card, and/or drivers licenses to people being release from jail or prison would be a big step toward helping to reduce recidivism. How has it been possible to expect people to reintegrate successfully into society without any identification? Because the current wording of this bill would restrict this help to those released after serving their full term, I urge you to amend the bill to include inmates who are released early, are on work furlough, or community placement. These inmates may also need assistance in obtaining ID. Also, because there are many people who are held in jail for less than a year, or who are not found guilty of a crime, and who do not have identification, I suggest another AMENDMENT to this bill that would require DPS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION on how to get government ID to ALL persons who are released, so that they may pursue obtaining ID on their own. Thank you for considering this amendment. With or without the amendment, I urge you to pass HB845. Barbara Polk

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To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Nishimoto and Vice Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **support of HB 845**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the Bill be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. This would allow these individuals to benefit from this bill as well as those who are exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence.

I went to TJ Mahoney Work Furlough in November 2013, after 36 years of incarceration. I had no Identification, nor did I have my Social Security Card. I did have a certified copy of my birth certificate.

However with the process of needing an ID to get a Social Security Card, and needing a Social Security Card to get an ID, I encountered many obstacles. All I needed was a "replacement" Social Security Card. I knew my SS number, and thought it would be a simple matter for the Social Security Office to look me up in the system. I was mistaken.

Because I was incarcerated under my married name, and my Social Security Card was under my maiden name, I encountered even more road blocks. I had to, first,

get a letter from the Warden at WCCC granting permission to return to using my maiden name, as I was divorced, and my maiden name restored by the court. By the time I obtained this letter, the procedure had been changed at the Social Security Office where they no longer accepted such letters as proof of my identity. I then needed to obtain a copy of my medical records from WCCC signed by the doctor. I was informed by the Social Security office that once I got that, I would be able to get my Social Security Card. They failed to mention, at that point, that I would also need a certified copy of my divorce decree.

This lengthy process was an impediment to getting employment. I had been job searching, and interviewing for jobs, thinking I would get all my documents in a timely manner. I was hired for a job, and scheduled to begin training early January, 2014. Two days before I was to start work, I once again went to the Social Security Office to attempt getting my Social Security Card, and then my ID from DMV, thinking I had all my documents in place. This was when they informed me I needed a certified copy of my divorce decree.

At this point, I was utterly frustrated. I needed to start working, but had no ID, nor Social Security Card. I went to the DMV office just to see if I could accomplish anything there. I explained my situation to someone at the Document Check table, showed all the documentation I had. She went and spoke to a supervisor, and they agreed to issue me a temporary ID, pending getting my Social Security Card.

It took me until mid-April, 2014 to finally get my Social Security Card, and then my permanent ID. I was fortunate enough to have the guidance and support of the Case Managers and Staff at TJ Mahoney's. Without that, the frustration, and challenges of the process could have gotten the better of me.

For people in transition, these documents, especially an ID, is critical in securing employment, housing, and social services that are so necessary in a successful transition.

Maryann Bray

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:19 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kehaulani coleman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 2PM Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 325 Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 Thank you Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and committee members, I am writing in support of HB 845. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry. I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill. Many people returning to the community from incarceration are doing so without an ID. Without an ID, people are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. House Bill 845 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release. Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community. Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter. Kehaulani Coleman Director, Economic Advancement Programs YWCA O'ahu 1040 Richards St., Honolulu, HI 96813 (808)

695-2603 kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:53 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:14 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto
Committee on Judiciary



HB 845, HD 1

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

2:00 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 845, which assists inmates being released back into our communities to obtain their civil identification cards, birth certificates, social security card, and any other relevant identification documents.

I am a MSW student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. Over the years I have learned that one of the biggest barriers for inmates transitioning back into the community is the simple fact of not having the required documents such as a state I.D. and birth certificate to obtain a job, get access to social services, and even secure housing. We should be helping every member of our community and to do this, it also includes a smooth transition for those who are re-entering back into society from our prison system.

I am in strong support of HB 845 for the two following reasons: (1) to reduce the hardship for the transitioning inmate and (2) to reduce our rising recidivism rates. In passing HB 845, we are reducing the hardship of ex-cons in finding security for themselves such as obtaining employment, securing housing, and applying for benefits. I’ve met a couple women in a transitioning home who shared that one of the biggest obstacles for them is acquiring a state I.D. These women shared the hardship of not being able to apply to any jobs, because one of the requirements is having their state I.D., but unfortunately it can be a long process. One of the ladies also shared how she doesn’t understand the process of acquiring documents such as her I.D. and birth certificate. Those who are faced with these barriers increase the likelihood of returning to criminal behavior. In passing HB 845, we could reduce our rising recidivism rate because we are decreasing the likelihood of ex-cons turning back to criminal activities. In speaking with those who were once in prison, most have shared how they return to illegal jobs (e.g. drug dealing) because they don’t get hired due to their history of being labeled an “ex-felon” and also because they don’t have their required documents.

Mahalo for this opportunity and I hope we can be a leading community for helping those who are incarcerated. In closing, please support HB 845 and our transitioning pa‘ahao (inmates).

Emma Ulali‘a Oto-Pale
(808) 372-2467