



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

And

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:50 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

Sidney Nakamoto

Probation Administrator, First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 845, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Identification.

Purpose: Requires the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with county and state agencies, and, upon request of the inmates, to issue civil identification cards to inmates and to assist inmates in obtaining the inmates' birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society. Requires the Department of Public Safety to initiate the process of assisting inmates released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement programs at least ninety days prior to the inmates' release. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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.

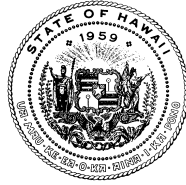


House Bill No. 845, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Identification
Senate Committee Judiciary and Labor
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:50 a.m.
Page 2

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 2, Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB845 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION.**

SENATOR GILBER KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 30, 2017

Room Number: 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure as drafted.
- 3 The department has been working with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) for several
- 4 months on process to provide birth certificates to inmates upon their release. The proposed
- 5 process requires the inmate to authorize DOH to disclose their confidential birth certificate
- 6 information to PSD in compliance with the requirements of section 338-18, Hawaii Revised
- 7 Statutes (HRS), which makes it unlawful for DOH to disclose vital record unless the requester
- 8 has a direct and tangible interest in the record. This authorization would enable DOH to provide
- 9 PSD with the inmate's birth certificate.
- 10 Consistent with the general population, the inmate would pay the \$10.00 fee for the birth
- 11 certificate or PSD would provide financial assistance to the inmate through non-profit
- 12 organizations that assist inmates and their families. This would minimize the financial and
- 13 operational burden away from the State while still accomplishing the goal of assisting inmates
- 14 obtain their birth certificates. The Department of Health does not support exceptions to payment
- 15 of the fee.
- 16 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
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 2, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ALTERNATIVES TO IDENTIFICATION

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan, M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2017; 10:50 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 845, House Draft (HD) 2, Senate Draft (SD) 2, however, we offer the following amendment in order to reduce the cost of implementation as associated with all fees and related costs routinely charged by the State and County agencies issuing the forms of identification named in this proposal:

On page 2, following line 4, insert the following:

(c) The fees associated with the issuance of birth certificates and other forms of identification shall be waived by the applicable State or County agency, and the issuing agency shall provide the service either on-site at the facility or electronically.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



HB845 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 30, 2017

9:50 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB845 HD2 SD1, 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, 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.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** HB845 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

¹ See The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, *Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report* 23 n. 28 (2012), available at http://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf.

² *Id.* at 29.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211
Re: *Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 845, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Identification*

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 845, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which mandates the Department of Public Safety and appropriate state/county agencies to issue identification documents (ID) to inmates for successful reentry into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing.

A means of identification plays a huge role for a former inmate’s transition to public life. Having an official government-issued ID increases the likelihood for better job prospects, stable housing, educational opportunities, and other possibilities. Newly hired employees are often required to provide copies of state or federally issued identification. Even when individuals are able to find employment, the lack of identification makes it difficult to cash paychecks or open bank accounts. These barriers increase the likelihood of failure during initial attempts of reentry—which can result in individuals returning to crime as a means of survival. According to a study from the Legal Action Center¹ the first few weeks after discharge are extremely critical to successful reentry and preventing recidivism. Thus, it is imperative to make this transition as smooth as possible by obtaining identification prior to release.

Recent actions from several state legislatures reveal the feasibility of the H.B. 845. In Oregon, a month prior to release, a card is issued through which food stamps and welfare are paid, avoiding the need for individuals to cash checks before obtaining identification. In California, a parole division directive was initiated requiring inmates to attend programs focusing on: housing, employment, education, and substance abuse. An employee of the Department of Motor Vehicle takes photos and collects relevant information from inmates so IDs can be issued upon release.

The ACLU of Hawaii applauds the Department of Public Safety for innovative, vocational rehabilitation programs such as the Correctional Industries (CI) Division. However, the ACLU of Hawaii’i urges the state legislature to take it a step further and require interagency agreements that can ease the process for former inmates to obtain state-issued identification.

¹ Legal Action Center, *After Prison: Roadblocks to Reentry; A Report On State Legal Barriers Facing People with Criminal Records*, (published 2004) available at http://lac.org/roadblocks-to-reentry/upload/lacreport/LAC_PrintReport.pdf.

Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committees

March 30, 2017

Page 2 of 2

For these reasons, the ACLU of Hawaii urges the Committees to support H.B. 845, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy Finlay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mandy Finlay
Advocacy Coordinator
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

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

March 27, 2017

Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Committee on Ways and Means

**RE: Testimony In Support Related to Identification HB845, HD 2, SD1
Hearing Thursday, Marach 30, 2017,9:50 AM, Room 211**

Dear Honorable Representatives:

The African American Lawyers Association supports HB 845 which assist 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 can not obtain their identification and as a result have difficulty in getting a job and transition 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.

By Daphne E. Barbee Wooten
President
African American Lawyers Association



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823
www.adaaction.org

March 27 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda JDL and WAM Committees

RE: HB 845 HD2 Relating to Identification
Support for hearing on March 30

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB845 HD2 SD1 as it would issue civil identification cards to certain inmates. We would like to see it amended to include those on furlough.

Without identification, a person cannot cash a check, get a library card, register to vote, open up a bank account, cash a check, etc. All people need identification, but it is particularly important for parolees. It can take anywhere from one month to a year for some to gather the documents needed for identification. Therefore it is sad that Hawai'i releases people with no money and no identification.

The more we can facilitate identification the better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President

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 AND LABOR

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2017

9:50 am

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 845 HD2, SD1 - IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees!

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 almost 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 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 is in strong support of this measure. We are puzzled that this bill says that the department "*shall inform inmates that departmental assistance is available to obtain civil identification cards...*". Releasing people with proper identification should be **required** of the department. After someone has been incarcerated for many years and decades, it is the department's responsibility to ensure that they have all the documentation necessary to start rebuilding their lives and relationships.

HAWAII IS THE ONLY STATE WITHOUT AN MOU WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION?

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.

Former prisoners face a difficult world outside of prison. Because of their past crimes, these returning citizens are often denied driver's licenses, parental rights, educational opportunities, housing, and jobs. These rules and regulations are called "collateral consequences." Instead of finding a second chance outside prison walls, these men, women, and adolescents are ushered into a second prison.¹

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

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. This lack of identification has the potential to promote illegal activities when one cannot find legitimate employment.

We are happy that the bill includes reporting requirements by the department to the Legislature and it would be great to also require the department report how often personal property goes missing and then to 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 SD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

"For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?"

bell hooks

¹ ROADBLOCKS ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW

<https://www.prisonfellowship.org/2017/02/background-check-collateral-consequences/>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 5:20:07 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:44:16 AM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 845. The CHOW Project strongly supports this measure as having identification is a vital piece of successful reentry and reintegration. Without identification, it is very challenging for people to access much needed services that research indicates help lower recidivism such as: * Secure housing * Employment * Open a bank account * Cash a check * Register to vote * Get a library card. Please support this important measure so we can help support people leaving the criminal justice system in getting the services they need so they do not re-enter the system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify
Heather Lusk

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March 24, 2017

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Dela Cruz 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.

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
CEO
YWCA O'ahu

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2017
TIME: 9:50 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211

Subject: Strong support for HB 845 HD2 SD1

Good morning Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and members of the Committees.

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 HD2**.

I also want to stress the importance of including language to address 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 would need to require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification and that this process would **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill was originally written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** would benefit from the 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:47:15 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anavy Tuya	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support 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. In order for inmates to reintegrate successfully back into their community, such as obtaining employment, public assistance benefits, and housing, having identification such as state ID, birth certificates and social security cards, is crucial. When former prisoners are able to obtain employment and housing, they have an opportunity to become self-sufficient rather than relying on public resources. Also, this lack of identification has the potential to promote illegal activities when one cannot find legitimate employment. Issuing identification cards in preparation for release will facilitate better self-sufficiency into re-entry to the community. Employment and housing are vital to successful re-entry 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 and contributing member of our community. At minimum, Hawai'i should ensure that people are able to obtain relevant identification cards prior to release, without which it is next to impossible to obtain housing or employment. I support HB 845 because it helps people obtain identification prior to release, removing a significant barrier to successful reentry into the community. In doing so, it will not only help those releasing from prison have a greater opportunity for successful reintegration into society, it will benefit the community as a whole by reducing the burdens placed on our public support system and decreasing the likelihood of recidivism. Anavy R. Tuya Social Sciences BA Graduate, University of Hawai'i West Oahu Crisis Therapist, CARE Hawai'i, Inc. Ph: (808) 728-9805 anavy.tuya@carehawaii.com

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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:32:15 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

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 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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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2017
TIME: 9:50 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Support for HB 845

Good Morning chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, vice chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and members of the committees. My name is Breanna Leong I'm in support of HB845, I am a resident of ywca fernhurst and I strongly believe that getting identification upon release is vital for the reintegration from prison into community. Identification will help inmates find a job faster into being more productive citizens and success in the work furlough programs., Please support this bill mahalo!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:36:38 AM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: · Hawai'i is the ONLY STATE with NO AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMIN! · Without proper identification, FORMERLY incarcerated persons cannot * Secure housing * Employment * Open a bank account * Cash a check * Register to vote * Get a library card

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2017
TIME: 9:50 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Support for HB 845

Good morning Chairs Keith Agaran and Tokuda ,Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and members of the committees. My name is Genitra Gomes and I am here in support of HB 845 .I am a resident at fernhurst YWCA and I know first hand how important it is to have identification upon release. It is very important in getting back into society; human beings as convicted felons deserve to have another chance in life to get it right . By having identification it helps to get back into society faster please support this piece of legislation.



Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.941.2231

Kokokahi YWCA
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
808.247.2124

Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 HD2 SD1

Thank you Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and committee members,

The YWCA O'ahu **strongly supports 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 an 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.

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 favorably on House Bill 845 HD2 SD1.**

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
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM*
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 3:10:25 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	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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To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 4:41:02 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kehaulani coleman	ywca o'ahu	Comments Only	No

Comments: To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50AM Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211 Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 HD2 SD1 Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Dela Cruz 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. 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. I oversee our YWCA work furlough program for women. One of our residents who has graduated is living on her own in the community told me getting her ID was a demoralizing experience. That stuck with me. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter. Kehaulani Coleman Director of Economic Advancement Programs YWCA O'ahu

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: kimcoco@kimcoco.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:28:06 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 845, HD2, SD1. Thank you for setting our family members and neighbors up for success and not failure. The more they can leave the institution with the required tools to get a job, the more quickly they can get back to being productive, contributing members of our family and communities. Thank you for being proactive and responsive to the studied obstacles and reasonable solutions.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM*
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:03:22 AM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maryann Bray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM*
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:00:29 PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 201

TIME 9:50 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211

Support for HB 845

God Morning Chairs Keith Agaran and Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, and members of the committees

My name is Myra K Kahele I am from the Big Island and I have been here at FernHurst for about three months. At the end of October 2015, I began working to obtain my birth certificate. I initiated the application process and completed the application on my own. I had to wait for the accountant to transfer money from my account to cashier's check to pay for the certificate. That process took 2 months. Once the money was in my account, the accountant mailed the check and application for me. I received the birth certificate in March of 2016. I was released January 6, 2017 with my birth certificate and a photocopy of my social security card. I went to the DMV and tried to obtain a state ID but was told I didn't have the proper papers. I was told I needed a certified medical statement that had my social security on it and proof of residency. I wasn't able to provide those items so my process to obtain my ID stopped. I attempted to obtain my social security card but because I didn't have an ID I was not able to enter the building. I made another visit to the office with my birth certificate and was able to enter the building. On my second visit, I was able to apply for the card and was told I would receive the card in two weeks. Once I receive that, I have to wait two week for my real ID. I will have been in the work furlough program for two months and I haven't been able to apply for a job.

It is a very frustrating process. When I went to apply for the ID, they wouldn't work with me and the documents I could provide. I wasn't able to get a certified medical statement. I was told at the DMV that if I made an appointment with my doctor, I could get a certified medical statement from the doctor. It is not easy for me to see a doctor. Because I am in the work furlough program, I have to go through the Women's Community Correctional Center. Getting an appointment is hard and takes time. If I had my ID when I left prison, I would be able to get a job, a bus pass; you need an ID for everything. I feel like an alien trying to do things without an ID.

I support people receiving an ID before they leave prison. Thank you for this opportunity to share my story.

Myra K Kahele

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE:

Thursday, March 30, 2017

TIME:

9:50 a.m.

PLACE:

Conference Room 211

Support for HB 845

Good Morning Chairs Kieth-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees. My name is Sarafina Maneafaiga and I am in support of HB 845. I am currently in the furnhursts furlough program for women and I know this bill will help those in the future. I help a lot of women go through months of trying to obtain identification. Please help this bill pass so that both men and women can have a fair chance at starting all over again. Thank You So Much For Your Time And Consideration, Much Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: [§](#)
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:54:00 AM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Mar 30, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2017, 9:50AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Dela Cruz 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.

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.

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

Talia Cardines, Manager

YWCA of Oahu, Fernhurst Residence

Phone: 808-941-2231 ext. 0

Email: tcardines@ywcaoahu.org

Testimony in SUPPORT of: HB 845 HD2, SD1 INMATES; IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR,
TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FROM: Wendy Gibson R.N./BSN

HEARING: Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 9:50 a.m. Conference Room 211

Dear Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz,
and Members of the Committees,

My name is Wendy Gibson and I support HB 845 HD2, SD1.

For an inmate to successfully reintegrate into society after release having ID is essential for employment, housing, banking, or getting a library card.

This bill helps remove this barrier to successful reintegration into society, allowing civil identification cards to be issued inmates and to assist inmates in obtaining the inmates' birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society.

This requires the Department of Public Safety to initiate the process of assisting inmates released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement programs at least ninety days prior to the inmates' release—so the transition can be made smoothly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about this important bill.

Wendy Gibson R.N., BSN, American Cannabis Nurses Association Member