

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 845, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ALTERNATIVES TO IDENTIFICATION

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2017; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 845, House Draft (HD) 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
RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION
House Committee on Finance

February 28, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

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

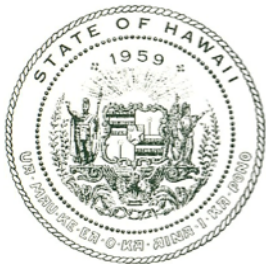
Accordingly, OHA supports this measure as a critical means to facilitate the successful reintegration of pa‘ahao, and further suggests that the Committee consider expanding its provisions to include inmates participating in work furlough and community placement programs, consistent with the NHJTF’s recommendation.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB845 HD2. 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.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
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MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
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Executive Director
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February 28, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Re: Testimony in Support, HB 845, HD2, Relating to Public Safety

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 845, HD2, 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, HD2 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 strong support.



To: Senator Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Subject: **HB 845- Relating to Identification**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 11:00am
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

My name is Camille Ambrose-Santos. I am a Masters of Social Work student attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in support of HB 845, which tasks the Department of Public Safety to assist exiting inmates in obtaining civil identification cards.

This is my second semester interning at Mental Health Kookua: Safe Haven. Our program serves homeless individuals who carry a severe mental illness (SMI) diagnosis. I have witnessed the struggles that clients coming out of incarceration go through in order to obtain essential identification documentation such as a state ID, social security card and birth certificate. This lengthy, multi-step process can be a significant barrier to successful reentry, especially for those living with mental illness. Some individuals need extra guidance in understanding and completing the required processes, which case managers are frequently responsible for providing. If inmates were assisted in obtaining these documents prior to leaving incarceration, case managers would immediately be able to focus on locating and securing housing options for more individuals, more quickly. Once housed, former inmates can begin to reintegrate as productive community members and rebuild their lives. Many tasks that enable successful reentry such as applying for employment, cashing checks and opening a bank account, all require proper identification. Therefore, someone who exits prison without identification is being released with a higher likelihood of failure and a higher risk of reoffending. HB 845 is a common sense policy that will help reduce recidivism and promote success for exiting inmates.

Providing inmates with identification documents prior to them transitioning back into the community is a crucial component in supporting successful reentry. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 845.

Camille Ambrose-Santos
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
(360) 473-8759

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

HB 845 HD2 SUPPORT w AMENDMENT - IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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 1,700 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 on parole or **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill. **What about those released early on work furlough, extended work furlough, or community placement?** These individuals are released early because they have earned it and now are ready to get their lives back on track.

It is puzzling and disturbing that this bill does not acknowledge that the legislature established a Reentry Commission to help formerly incarcerated people who have been working to change their lives.

Does the committee know that 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 HD2 with the adoption of the 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.

"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
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

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eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

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

February 27, 2017

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: February 28, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308

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

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance,

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.

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.

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

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2017
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

Good morning Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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**.

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.

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 28, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308

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.

Thank you,
Kelcie Watson, MSW
Case Manager

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rcurtis2@my.hpu.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raquel Curtis	YWCA	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sonnyganaden@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonny M Ganaden, Esq.	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I renew my previous testimony and will appear in person.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 4:31 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:55 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jeannine808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha members, Your support of this bill is important to serving women and men coming out of incarceration and can help homeless individuals get services to get on their feet again. Identification cards are vital piece for reentry. Without an ID card, a person cannot apply for employment or housing. Currently, a person faces significant barriers to receiving and ID card after they have transitioned out of prison. For some, it can take months to finally receive a state ID card. HB845 would require the Department of Public Safety to work with other county and state agencies to issue a civil ID card and would assist inmates in obtaining their birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for a successful reentry. Please support this bill with your vote to pass it.

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Chair Sylvia Luke
Committee on Finance

HB 845, HD 2

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

11:00 A.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Sorry for lateness of my testimony. Just read my email notice. Support. Very important for those released from prison have these important papers so they can proceed to integrate into the community. Mahalo for your consideration.

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