

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
RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION.**

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 21, 2017

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health in HB845 HD2. However, potential
2 \$80,000 in lost revenue to the general fund and certain domestic violence special funds if
3 amended to waive certain fees.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the current
5 version of HB845 HD2 and recommends no further substantive amendments that may impact the
6 Department of Health's provision of birth certificates.

7 The department has been with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) for several months to
8 devise a method to provide birth certificates upon their release. The process under consideration
9 requires the inmate to authorize DOH to disclose their confidential birth certificate information
10 to PSD in compliance with the requirements of section 338-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
11 which makes it unlawful for DOH to disclose vital record unless the requester has a direct and
12 tangible interest in the record. This authorization would enable DOH to provide PSD with the
13 inmate's birth certificate.

14 Consistent with the general population, the inmate would pay the \$10.00 fee for the birth
15 certificate or PSD would provide financial assistance to the inmate through non-profit
16 organizations that assist inmates and their families. This would minimize the financial and
17 operational burden away from the State while still accomplishing the goal of assisting inmates
18 obtain their birth certificates.

1 **Impact to General and Special Funds**

2 DOH is required by section 338-14.5, HRS, to collect a fee for each certified copy of a birth
3 certificate. Of that \$10.00 fee, \$4.00 goes to special funds including \$1.00 to the vital statistics
4 improvement special fund to enable the DOH to provide services in the area of vital records, and
5 \$6.00 goes to the general fund.

6 Based on information obtained from PSD in our discussions about the inmate identification
7 project, there are as many as 8,000 Hawaii born inmates in the prison system. If fees for
8 certified copies of birth certificates are waived, the potential loss of revenue is \$80,000 (8,000
9 inmates x \$10) in general and special fund deposits. This revenue decrease will negatively
10 impact the special-funded domestic violence and child and spouse abuse prevention programs at
11 the Judiciary, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health, each of which receives
12 \$1 per certified copy fee for each birth certificate.

13 **Existing Programs**

14 The Department of Public Safety, in testimony supportive of the companion measure, SB1039
15 SD2 HD1, and in meetings with the Department of Health to create a method to assist inmates
16 obtain birth certificates, indicated that PSD already has inmate re-entry case management
17 programs to assist inmates to obtain birth certificates. DOH would like to maximize the existing
18 programs and funding to move the identification project forward and respectfully urges that
19 HB845 HD2 to passed with no further substantive amendments that may impact the Department
20 of Health's provision of birth certificates.

21 The Department of Health opposes any proposal to waive the fee for certified copies of birth
22 certificates because it will negatively impact funding for domestic violence and child and spouse
23 abuse prevention programs and violate equal protection under the law by singling out and giving
24 special treatment to a group of individuals as opposed to the general public.

25 **Offered Amendments:** No further substantive amendments that may impact the Department of
26 Health's provision of birth certificates.

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
RELATING TO ALTERNATIVES TO IDENTIFICATION

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 21, 2017; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

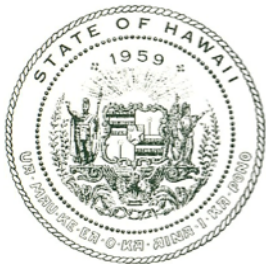
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 845, House Draft (HD) 2, however, we offer the following amendment in order to reduce the cost of implementation as associated with all fees and related costs routinely charged by the State and County agencies issuing the forms of identification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

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

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
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humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 21, 2017

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

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.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

Sidney Nakamoto

Probation Administrator, First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 845, House Draft 2, 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 HD2)

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 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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John Bickel, President
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer
Karin Gill, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Guy Archer
Dylan Armstrong
Gloria Borland
Chuck Huxel
Jan Lubin
Jenny Nomura
Stephen O'Harrow
Cameron Sato

MAILING ADDRESS

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

March 20 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chair Nishihara and Members of the PSM Committee

RE: HB 845 HD2 Relating to Identification
Support for hearing on March 21

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 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 2:11 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: dabitbol@chowproject.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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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 PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Room 229

HB 845 HD2 SUPPORT w AMENDMENT - IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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 HD2 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. Releasing people with identification should be the responsibility of the department. Some people who have been incarcerated for many years, have no idea what to ask for. This is unfair.

HAWAI'I 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/>



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 845 Relating to Identification
House Committee on Public Safety
Scheduled for Hearing Teusday, March 21, 2017, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 229

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 845. When people are released from prison, it is in everyone's interest to ensure that they have a smooth transition into the community. 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, their likelihood of recidivating is dramatically reduced.

Obtaining employment and housing are difficult with a criminal record, and those releasing from a period of incarceration need support with their efforts in order to have a realistic opportunity of success. At minimum, Hawai'i should ensure that people are able to obtain identification prior to release, without which it is next to impossible to obtain housing or employment.

Hawai'i Appleseed supports 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.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:59 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and members. As in previous testimony the Coalition is in full support of this common sense measure to help those released from prison to reintegrate into the community. Please pass this bill, Mahalo, Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

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To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 21 2PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 HD2

Thank you Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 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.

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**.

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 HD2**.

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: Sunday, March 19, 2017 12:17 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Kehaulani Coleman Director Economic Advancement Programs YWCA O'ahu 1040 Richards St. Honolulu, HI 96813 kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org 808-695-2603 For the women we serve in our work furlough program, I support HB 845 that will 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. However, there is one caveat: we are asking for an amendment to the bill. As it is currently written, it will only apply to those exiting prison upon the completion of their sentence. Our residents are still technically incarcerated; therefore the bill would NOT, as written, apply to them. Currently, many women in our program spend a great deal of time upon entry to the program working to obtain proper identification, an essential first step in being able to obtain employment and navigate the multiple tasks and challenges for successful community reentry. One of them told me her process was "demoralizing". I support the current bill with the aforementioned amendment. Mahalo Kehaulani Coleman

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glen Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
TIME: 2:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Subject: Strong support (with an amendment) for HB 845 HD2

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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 HD2**.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:52 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: sonnyganaden@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 2:01 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: roili@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Oili	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 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.

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To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 2PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845 HD2

Thank you Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, 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**.

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.

Sincerely,



Matthew Haley

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:10 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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: Saturday, March 18, 2017 7:54 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: jeannine808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Souki	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2017 4:29 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM

HB845

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: To have a successful reentry and reintegration back into society, the exiting inmate needs the documents mentioned in the bill. Even the every day person has a difficult time getting a driver's license with documents in hand.

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March 20, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 845 RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION
with Recommended Amendments
For hearing before PSM, March 21 at 2:00 in Room 229**

TO: Chair Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Barbara Polk

I am testifying as an individual concerned with the high recidivism rate in Hawaii. I strongly support HB 845 and recommend two amendments to extend its scope, improve the reintegration into society of incarcerated persons as they leave jail or prison, and thereby improve public safety.

At present, we think about needing new jails and prisons and send prisoners to the mainland. Instead, 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 released from jail or prison would be a big step toward helping to reduce recidivism, for without ID, individuals can rarely find housing or jobs, or open a bank account or get a driver's license, and may be forced to engage in illegal activity. 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, or are on work furlough or community placement.** These inmates may also need assistance in obtaining ID.

In addition, 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 urge a further amendment that would require DPS to provide information on how to get government ID to ALL persons released from jail as well as from prison.**

Thank you for considering these amendments.
With or without the amendments, I urge you to pass HB845.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:02 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM*

HB845

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB 845, HD 2

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

2:00 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 229



Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

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.

In previous testimony, I shared my support of HB 845 for the two following reasons: (1) to reduce the hardship for the transitioning inmate back into society 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. Those who are faced with these barriers increase the likelihood of returning to criminal activities. In passing HB 845, we would reduce our rising recidivism rate because we are decreasing the likelihood of “ex-cons” turning back to criminal activities due to lack of employment opportunities. In this testimony, I would like to share some amendments:

Line 9-12: states that inmates must “request” for civil identification cards and only “inmates who have one year or less prior to the inmate’s parole or release date remaining on their prison sentence” can make a “request”.

I have two amendments: (1) civil identification cards should be encouraged by the prison staff to the inmate and not weighed on the inmate’s “request” (2) this “request” for civil identification cards should be an opportunity for all inmates, regardless of how much time remaining they have on their prison sentence.

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