

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

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INTERIM CHAIR

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

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

CORRECTED COPY

TESTIMONY ON SB 1039 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

By

Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Interim Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

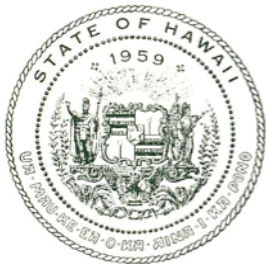
Monday, February 13, 2017- 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Chairs Nishihara, Baker, and Inouye; Vice Chair Wakai and Dela Cruz; and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports the intent of Senate Bill 1039, Relating to Public Safety. This bill will assist the parolees in obtaining proper identification/ documentation necessary for employment, housing, financial assistance, and parole and/or completion of sentence.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1039.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

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Honolulu, HI 96813
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February 13, 2017

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

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and
Health

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

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

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 1039, Relating to Public Safety

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1039, which would require the Department of Public Safety to assist in obtaining 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.)

SB 1039 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. The Commission supports SB 1039. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.

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 SENATE BILL 1039
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Monday, February 13, 2017; 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Chairs Nishihara, Baker, and Inouye; Vice Chairs Wakai and Dela Cruz; and
Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 1039 and offers the following comments. The Department acknowledges the difficulties encountered by soon-to-be-released inmates in overcoming the hurdles of obtaining valid government-issued identification, essential to living and working in the community, and has taken action and continues to act to improve processing procedures.

Since 2014, PSD has been working with the Social Security Administration (SSA) on developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to allow specified staff to validate the identity of an inmate in order to facilitate the issuance of a

replacement Social Security card. This has been a lengthy and tedious process, as the development of an MOA is subject to review at several levels of the SSA, and the Department will continue to pursue this course until this objective is met.

The current procedure to acquire a government identification card (ID) requires that an application for an ID be made in person, therefore, limiting the issuance of IDs to inmates who are community custody and enrolled in a furlough program at the appropriate Community Correctional Center.

PSD respectfully recommends that SB 1039, page 2, section 4, lines 7 and 8, and page 3, section 4, lines 15 &16, be replaced with the following language:

“All pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to less than one year.”

PSD also recommends that SB 1039, page 2, section d, lines 9 through 14, be amended to read:

“The department, in conjunction with the department of health, the department of transportation, and the examiner of drivers of each respective county, shall provide free of charge by waiving all fees for eligible inmates, who are Hawaii born inmates with . . . inmate’s sentence.”

These amendments will focus the intended benefits and services on the proper target inmate population and increase the efficiency of the process by providing sufficient time to deal with delays inherent in shepherding paperwork through multiple agencies with differing document requirements and deadlines.

It should be noted that several forms of documentation are required to obtain an ID, and through the aid of case management staff, the Department assists inmates in obtaining copies of birth certificates. For inmates who are not in a furlough program and therefore unable to apply in person, PSD would

Testimony on SB 1039
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
February 13, 2017
Page 3

suggest that the Legislature statutorily require that various agencies designate staff to assist in processing applications for State IDs, driver's licenses, and extensions of previously-issued driver's licenses and permits on-site at correctional facilities. The Correctional Facilities are able to provide adequate space and access for the applications services, but are wholly unable to provide large scale, secure transport for the numbers of inmates who would be eligible to apply for government IDs under this measure.

Finally, the Department highly recommends that the Legislature consider incorporating a fee waiver or a voucher system as a part of SB 1039 to assist inmates with the costs of obtaining relevant documents and identification, and to appropriate sufficient funds to the impacted agencies to ensure success in meeting the objectives of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



February 11, 2017

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and the Committee
on Transportation and Energy

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017 (2:15 p.m.)

Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 225

Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –
Hawai'i in **SUPPORT of S.B. 1039**, relating to public safety

Dear Senator Clarence K. Nishihara (Chair), Senator Glenn Wakai (Vice Chair), Senator Rosalyn H. Baker (Chair), Senator Lorraine R. Inouye (Chair), Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz (Vice Chair), and Members of the Committees,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 1039**, relating to public safety.

My testimony is on behalf of the approximately 400 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawai'i, who list gender violence as an important current concern. Any policy which provides individuals exiting prison with better possibilities for finding housing and employment is bound to benefit spouses, partners, and children of these men and women.

Hawai'i, along with other American states has large numbers of incarcerated individuals. At the end of 2015, "an estimated 6,741,400 persons were supervised by U.S. adult correctional systems" (Kaeble & Glaze, 2015 "Correctional Populations in the US: 2015" [<https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5870>]). According to the Hawai'i Department of Public Safety, 3,777 men and women were incarcerated in Hawai'i on December 31, 2016 (<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Pop-Reports-EOM-2016-12-31.pdf>). Recidivism rates in the US are high (49.3% for federal prisons; <http://www.ussc.gov/about/news/press-releases/march-9-2016>), as are those for Hawai'i (47.4% for FY 2012; <http://icis.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ICIS-2015-Recidivism-Update.pdf>). The strategy proposed in SB 1039 seems well founded, with potential to decrease recidivism, with its attendant economic and social costs. Providing identification documents to people exiting incarceration seems a low-cost individual service, with the potential to provide general social benefits in excess of the expenditure.

In conclusion, passage of S.B. 1039 has potential to decrease recidivism and increase public safety, and should be supported.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Susan J. Wurtzburg

Ph.D., Policy Chair

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, & MILIARARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Monday, February 13, 2017

2:15 pm

Room 225

SB 1039 STRONG SUPPORT w AMENDMENTS - IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chairs Nishihara, Baker, and Inouye 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 approximately 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure and thanks the committee for hearing this important bill. We respectfully ask for the following amendments:

1. Please **delete Section 1 (c) (3) and (d) (3)** that both read: "*Subsection (b) shall not apply to inmates who: (3) Are released due to a **compassionate release** pursuant to department policy; or "*

People who are released on compassionate release need identification in order to fill their prescriptions for medication, be admitted to a hospital or hospice, access their benefits and social services, etc.

2. **Please delete the word "physical" from Section 1 (c) (4) and (d) (4)** that both read: "*(4) Are not in the physical custody of the department one hundred and eighty days or less before release.*"

The word "physical" would exclude those individuals released by the department on work furlough, extended furlough, and community placement who need proper identification. This is a huge obstacle for those folks.

Identification has been a huge barrier for our people transitioning from incarceration back to their communities. Hawai'i has been releasing people with no identification, no money, and virtually no hope since identification is required in order to

- Find housing
- Employment
- Open a bank account
- Cash a check
- Register to vote
- Get a library card

Without proper identification, the barriers to reentry are HUGE. In a House hearing on a similar bill, formerly incarcerated women testified that it has taken months and even a full year for these documents to be secured. This sets back their reintegration and causes unnecessary hardship for a person working hard to get his/her life started after incarceration.

The Department of Justice acknowledged identification as an important reentry practice and recommended the Federal Bureau of Prisons reduce barriers that interfere with a person's ability to secure valid government-issued identification upon release¹.

The lack of proper identification can lead people to illegal activities because they cannot secure employment and can lead to houselessness since identification is required to secure safe housing.

In short, the community pays dearly when we release people without proper identification. This only leads to recidivism and another drain on our already over-taxed residents.

The legislature, Community Alliance on Prisons, and our community was promised in 2008 by a prior administration that the department would ensure that all released inmates would receive proper identification before release. This never happened.

We also support helping those not born in Hawai'i to obtain their birth certificates.

We support (h) requiring the department of public safety to report on the number of inmates released without social security cards, identification or driver's licenses, and birth certificates and asking the department to identify the impediments to implementation and provide recommendations to improve the process.

We urge the committees to pass this important bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

¹ U.S Department of Justice (2016) Roadmap to reentry: Reducing recidivism through reentry reforms at the federal bureau of prisons



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 1039 Assisting Inmates in Obtaining Civil Identification
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Scheduled for Hearing Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15 PM, Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 1039**, which allow people to more quickly access vital services and support and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

Upon arrest or incarceration, many people lose their identification cards. Their former landlords or housemates may throw them out. After their release, it can take months to obtain the necessary documents to obtain a new ID, such as a birth certificate or social security card.

As a result, formerly incarcerated individuals are returning to our communities without the IDs necessary to obtain employment or housing. Meanwhile, barriers to employment may compel them to turn to illegal activity in order to survive. It's clear that housing barriers contribute to homelessness.

In fact, employment and housing have been identified as two key pieces of reducing recidivism. The Department of Justice has acknowledged identification as an important reentry practice and recommended the Federal Bureau of Prisons reduce barriers that interfere with a person's ability to secure valid government-issued identification upon release.

We request the addition of language to the bill that would require the State to initiate assistance to those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. This would allow these individuals to benefit from this bill as well as those who are exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence.

At least 12 states have some system in place to help inmates obtain an ID before they are released. Hawai'i should join them, to the benefit of our entire community.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:06 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

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.

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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February 12, 2017

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Committee on Transportation and Energy
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225

Subject: Please Support SB 1039, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **support of SB 1039**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

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

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. Senate bill 1039 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 respectfully ask you to support Senate Bill 1039. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.



Noriko Namiki
CEO
YWCA O'ahu

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Committee on Transportation and Energy

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225

Position Statement in Support of Senate Bill 1039

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees. On behalf of YWCA O'ahu we thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in **strong support of Senate Bill 1039**.

The YWCA O'ahu supports the intent of Senate Bill 1039, which would require the Department of Public Safety 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 person cannot accept employment or secure housing-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.

Senate bill 1039 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 SB 1039 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill.

The Department of Justice and former Attorney General Loretta 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 lacking an ID is problematic. Senate bill 1039 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.

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
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Laniākea YWCA

1040 Richards Street
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808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

I have the privilege of working with women in the work furlough program. I have heard the same story too many times to count. The story goes: a woman transitions from the correctional center with a check. She does not have her ID so she cannot cash or deposit her check. She does not have the money to pay for the ID or necessary paperwork because she cannot cash her check. She is unable to cash her check without an ID and without cashing her check she cannot obtain an 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 Senate bill 1039. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

Kathleen Algire
Advocacy Coordinator

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Committee on Transportation and Energy

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 215PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225

Subject: Please support SB 1039, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees,

My name is Talia Cardines, I am the manager at YWCA Oahu's Fernhurst Residence and I am in **support of SB 1039** and am writing to request your **support of SB 1039**.

I also request 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.

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

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

With your support of **SB 1039 (with an amendment)**, re-entry can begin well before they walk out of the prison gates. With a photo ID and social security card in hand, they will be able to gain legal employment, open up a bank account (for many, it will be their first time), pay and file taxes, and access health care. These are essential starting points for re-entry.

Mahalo very much for the opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225

Subject: Strong support (with an amendment) for SB 1039

Good afternoon Chairs Nishihara, Baker and Inouye, and Vice Chairs Wakai, Nishihara, 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 **SB 1039**.

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: Sunday, February 12, 2017 4:39 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: aurasaki@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM*

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
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SB1039

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I support SB1039. Anyone released from incarceration needs identification in order to: - Secure housing - Employment - Open a bank account - Cash a check - Register to vote - Get a library card Many don't know where to or how to get identification so this bill will help them get started on the road to recovery. Mahalo and Aloha, e. ileina funakoshi

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

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 for less than 180 days, or who are not found guilty of a crime, and who do not have identification, I suggest an 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 SB1039. Barbara Polk

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:11 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Support

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 6:02 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: joyl247@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Lacanienta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill. Identification is a vital piece of successful reentry and reintegration. 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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February 11, 2017

To: **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS**
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH
Sen. Roslyn Baker, Chair
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Re: **SB1039 — IDENTIFICATION — hearing on Monday, Feb 13, 2017**

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Nishihara, Baker, Inouye and members of your committees,

Please pass this excellent bill, with the two amendments proposed by Community Alliance on Prisons. The legislation is straightforward, commonsensical and carefully detailed. It is compassionate, and it will save our state much money.

Equally importantly, please fund this bill sufficiently to do the job properly, even if it is money we didn't intend to spend. The investment will be returned many times over.

Lastly, please hold accountable the state employees responsible for implementing the new law. As simple as the tasks spelled out may be, they are likely to be viewed as burdensome and troublesome ... a bunch of paperwork that no one likes to do. It would be a shame to make more life-changing promises that we don't really intend to keep.

Mahalo nui loa.

Aloha,



Peter Gellatly

Corrections Population Management Commission, 2004-2011
Penal Code Review Committee, 2015



pgellatly@mac.com • 808.542.8880
PO Box 88022 • Honolulu, HI 96830

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 5:52 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee on Transportation and Energy Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15PM Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225 Subject: Please Support SB 1039, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees, I am writing in support of SB 1039. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry. I also request that the Bill be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. This would allow these individuals to benefit from this bill as well as those who are exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence. 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. Senate bill 1039 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 respectfully ask you

to support Senate Bill 1039. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter. Kehaulani Coleman Director YWCA Economic Advancement Programs 1040 Richards St. kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org 808-695-2603

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To: PSMTestimony
Cc: jeannine808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1039. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is good policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, like housing and employment, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry. Please amend the bill to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. This would allow these individuals to benefit from this bill as well as those who are exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence. 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 lengthy 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. Senate bill 1039 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card, birth certificate and social security 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 respectfully ask you to support Senate Bill 1039. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter. Jeannine Souki

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To: PSMTestimony
Cc: curilee@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM

SB1039

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for PSM/CPH/TRE on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cu Ri	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees, Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1039. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry. I also request that the bill be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. This would allow these individuals to benefit from this bill as well as those who are exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence. 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 lengthy 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. Senate bill 1039 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card, birth certificate and social security 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 respectfully ask you to support Senate Bill 1039. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

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To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Committee on Transportation and Energy

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225

Subject: Please Support SB 1039, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **support of SB 1039**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maryann Bray

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Committee on Transportation and Energy

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 2017, 2:15

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 225

Good afternoon Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair 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 weeks. 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

For nearly eight years, I was incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center. In preparation of my exit, I started to inquire on the process of acquiring the necessary documentation to obtain a State ID and birth certificate. It was disheartening to hear stories of the many women who struggle with re-integrating. They faced difficulties of not having a social security card and birth certificate – components required for a State ID. Women are not able to enter the federal building to apply for a social security card without an ID, which cannot be attained without the social security card.

Securing identification prior to release will help with securing employment, housing, and financial needs, such as, opening a bank account and cashing checks. Upon release, many inmates are given work line paychecks; money earned while working in prison. These checks cannot be cashed without identification.

There are some cases where women in the furlough program cannot start work for many months as they struggle to obtain identification. In some cases, this causes a deferment in their parole hearing. If one is not employed, they cannot be paroled. This causes a back log for the many potential inmates waiting to start the furlough program.

It is with great hopes, state legislators will pass SB1039. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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With Aloha,

Susan Shaw