

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:25 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: dabitbol@chowproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM



SB1039

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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

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

Comments: · 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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TESTIMONY:

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 PM

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,

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

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

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

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:36 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: sk8legal808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1039 on Feb 13, 2017 14:15PM



SB1039

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Virginia E Hench	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure, with small amendments (see below) because identification is a vital piece of successful reentry and reintegration. Without proper identification, formerly incarcerated persons cannot secure housing, secure (or many times interview for) employment, open a bank account, cash a check, register to vote, for those eligible to do so, get a library card, or pursue education or job training, in many cases. I request these amendments: 1. Please delete Section 1 (c) (3) and (d) (3) that read: "Subsection (b) shall not apply to inmates who: (3) Are released due to a compassionate release pursuant to department policy; or " Reason: 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. ALSO: 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, all of whom need proper identification. This is a huge obstacle for those folks. Please pass this measure. Mahalo!

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