



**Testimony by:**  
JADE T. BUTAY  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 6, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

**SB 2171**  
**RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Senate Committees on Transportation and Energy, and Human Services

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) is submitting **comments** regarding S.B. 2171. The DOT has strong concerns as it relates to S.B. 2171 that authorizes driver's licenses and civil identification cards to display a "disabled" notation on the front of the card and identify a person's disability on the reverse side of the card.

The Hawaii driver's license and civil identification card has very limited space on the credentials. Placing the "disabled" notation in addition to the currently authorized "veteran" designation on the front of the driver's license or civil identification card will begin to create a "cluttered" effect. On the driver's license on the reverse side, there is very limited space to provide the issuing agency the ability to "enter disability information the applicant may request." Space on the reverse side of the driver's license is limited due to the use of available space for such things as: the 3D bar code; required REAL ID elements; class of driver's license description; any driver's restrictions; and any driver's endorsements.

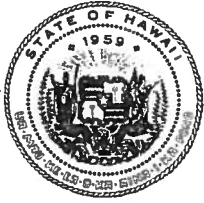
The county driver license locations issue REAL ID compliant driver's licenses that include provisional driver's licenses and instructional permits; REAL ID compliant civil identification cards; and non-compliant Limited Purpose driver's licenses that also include provisional driver's licenses and instructional permits. Because the transactions to obtain these credentials include reviewing and scanning required documents into the applicant's file, applicants at these locations have experienced protracted "wait times" due to long lines. If the county driver license locations will now be required to review and scan documentation of an applicant's disability into their file and issue civil identification cards indication permanent and temporary disabilities of one year, this will create longer "wait times" for customers utilizing the driver license locations' services.

The Disability and Communication Access Board establishes rules relating to persons with disabilities. The rules allow special parking privileges for individuals with temporary mobility disabilities a placard and accompanying disability card from one to six months and long-term disabilities up to six years. The disabilities as defined in the bill would

allow persons with a disability a minimum of one-year term regardless of the length of the disability. A major concern is that the disability, whether temporary or long-term, in most cases may not align with the normal maximum term of the driver's license or civil identification card. As an illustration, instead of an eight-year driver's license, a one-month disability will require an issuance of a one-year driver's license for this temporary disability. This would be inconvenient and costly to the person with the disability as well as increasing to the lines and wait times at the driver licensing locations.

Finally, the driver's license and civil identification card database do not have provisions to store, process or maintain disability information. Other agencies may be already tracking and maintaining such a database. These agencies would be better equipped to work with the medical community, understand the disability, and correctly issue an official and more medically comprehensive card for first responders and to identify persons requiring special services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

February 6, 2018

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY, AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### Senate Bill 2171 – Relating to Identification Cards for Persons with Disabilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board does not support Senate Bill 2171 in its current form which allows drivers licenses, state identification cards and a new disability card to indicate that a person has a disability (both unspecified and self-declared). Our Board has discussed this concept over several years. Our concerns are:

- The introduction states two conflicting reasons. Page 1, lines 6-9 reads "...the disclosure of a disability on a driver's license or identification card can assist first responders in determining the best way to treat, assist, or communication with the person" (i.e., Would Smart 911 suffice for first responders information?). Page 1, line 11 states "...indicating a person's disability will allow the person access to certain services such as special seating on public transit or at public events." These two statements are not consistent. The former is reflective of a need for a communication card or a medical card for first responders while the latter is related to accessing certain services. This is confusing.
- This designation will mistakenly be used as evidence of eligibility for services. We are concerned that people will assume that a self-designation will automatically offer them some service benefit (i.e., airline seating, use of an assistance animal in housing, accessible parking) when other documentation is required.
- Will the Department of Transportation and the County issuing agencies draft rules to determine what type of medical documentation is necessary? Is a fee permitted for this new card? Which agency is responsible for the database for new identification cards? An effective date of January 1, 2019 is not realistic, nor is there an appropriation for implementation.
- The bill states that the only wording on the front of the driver's license or state identification card is the word "disabled." If no other information is provided, the broad term would appear to be useless to anyone who sees it.
- The definition of disability includes anyone with any ailment, temporary or permanent. It is not clear how the duration of a temporary disability would work with a driver's license or identification card of a longer duration (i.e., If a person breaks his/her leg for six months and has a driver's license for six years, what happens?).
- Could a person seek a separate disability identification card in addition to a driver's license or civil identification card or are these mutually exclusive options?

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

**VCOUNTY COUNCIL**

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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 2, 2018

**TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 2171, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PERSONS WITH**  
**DISABILITIES**  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, February 6, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Inouye, Chair Green, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2171, Relating to Identification Cards for Persons with Disabilities. My testimony is submitted as Vice President of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, and in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council and Chair of the Council's Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

SB 2171, Relating to Identification Cards for Persons with Disabilities, is included in the 2018 Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Allowing a person to include information about their disability on their identification cards can assist first responders in determining the best treatment options in times of emergencies. Also, medical documentation will be a requirement to support a person's request for indication of a disability on that person's identification card to mitigate potential abuse.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy and the Senate Committee on Human Services to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Derek S.K. Kawakami", written over a horizontal line.

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct

# Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu

74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Bldg. A, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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February 2, 2018

TESTIMONY OF DRU KANUHA  
HSAC PRESIDENT  
ON SB 2171, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES

Committee on Transportation and Energy  
Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, February 6, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties in **support** of Senate Bill 2171, relating to identification cards for persons with disabilities which is included in the 2018 HSAC Legislative Package.

The purpose of this measure allows identification cards to indicate a person's disability, to allow the person access to certain eligible public services and help identify the disability to public safety personnel in case of an emergency.

As not all disabilities are readily apparent, such as those related to mental health, this measure would allow a person with a disability to nonverbally communicate any special needs to police and other public-safety personnel, which would be of particular help during an emergency. An identification card that clearly indicates a person's disability would allow the person better access to certain eligible public services, such as special transportation and seating for persons with disabilities at public events.

HSAC supports this measure for the reasons stated above and we urge the Committee on Transportation and Energy, and the Committee on Human Services to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kanuha". The signature is stylized and fluid.

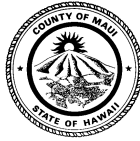
DRU KANUHA  
HSAC PRESIDENT

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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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February 4, 2018

TO: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy  
  
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Stacy Crivello, Secretary  
Hawaii State Association of Counties 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2171, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow identification cards to indicate a person's disability, to allow the person access to certain eligible public services and help identify the disability to public safety personnel in case of an emergency.

This measure is included in the Hawaii State Association of Counties' ("HSAC") Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony as HSAC's Secretary.

I am aware that the President of HSAC has submitted testimony, on behalf of HSAC, in support of this measure. As Secretary, I concur with the testimony submitted by the President, and urge you to **support** this measure.

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**SB-2171**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:37:57 AM

Testimony for TRE on 2/6/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: