



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 6, 2017

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
and

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Inouye and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: SB 456 and SB 477 – Relating to Identification Cards for Persons with Disabilities.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) appreciates the intent of SB 456 and SB 477. The bills authorizes the Department of Transportation to include information about a person's disability on the person's driver's license or civil identification card.

The Council understands that having such a card may be helpful for an individual with a disability in communicating their special needs while participating in various community events or for police, fire and other public safety personnel in the event of an emergency. On the other hand, we have the following comments as we feel there may be unintended consequences with the language of the bills:

1. There may be potential for individuals to use their identification card to receive preferential treatment at community events. Because it is voluntary to include such a notation or statement on the driver's license, fortunate are those individuals who do this to obtain access to certain public services such as special transportation and seating for persons with disabilities. For those who choose not to disclose their disability, they would not be able to access those special services.

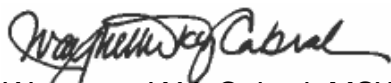
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2. On Page 1, Section 1, lines 7 through 8, we add that the use of a medical alert bracelet, medical alert necklace, or a medical alert card can be used and has been used to alert first responders on the best way to assist an individual in need.
3. On Page 2, Section 2, line 15 it is unclear what the “disabled” notation is? Is this same as to the accessible-parking symbol? We question if it is an appropriate symbol to designate a disability, as we understand it to be related to accessibility for a person who uses a wheelchair and not to identify a person with a disability.
4. There may be misinterpretation or misunderstanding that the designation of the disability determines eligibility for services and by having the designation means the individual may automatically qualify for services.

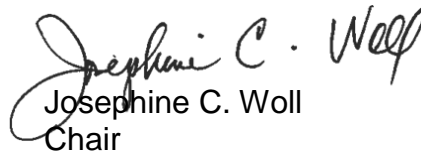
The Council respectfully suggests that the Disability and Communication Access Board as the state ADA coordinator be consulted regarding the “disabled” notation and definition of disability for the appropriate language to address in these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for **SB 456 and SB 477**.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator



Josephine C. Woll
Chair

Hawai`i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

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

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February 3, 2017

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

FROM: Stacy Crivello
HSAC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Crivello", is written over a circular seal of the County of Hawaii.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 456, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize the state Department of Transportation to include information about a person's disability on the person's driver's license or civil identification card as an option.

This measure is included in the 2017 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

HSAC **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The intent of this measure is to help those with disabilities by giving them the **option** to include their disability on their I.D.
2. 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.
3. An identification card clearly indicating 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HSAC:FY2017:17Testimony:SB456a_mkz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 3:37 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB456 on Feb 6, 2017 15:00PM*

SB456

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for TRE/PSM on Feb 6, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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