

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DEPT. COMM. NO. 190

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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No. _____

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the **Reentry Coordination Office Report on Identification Documents**, as required by Act 56, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

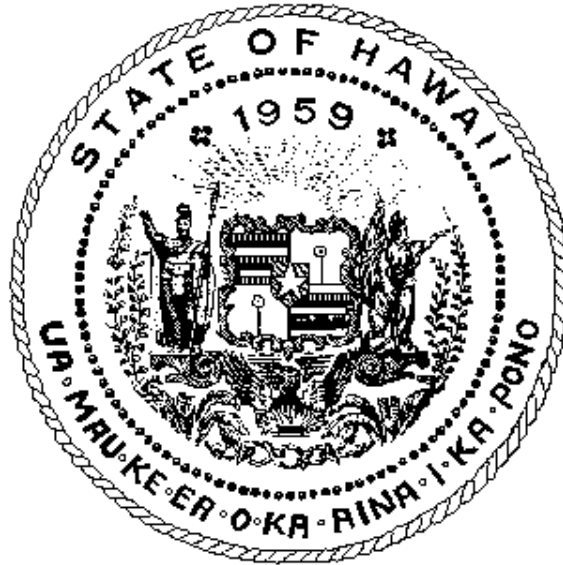
In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: [http://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Reentry Coordination Office Report on Identification Documents.pdf](http://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Reentry_Coordination_Office_Report_on_Identification_Documents.pdf).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nolan P. Espinda".

Nolan P. Espinda
Director

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REENTRY COORDINATION OFFICE**

**REPORT TO THE 2019 LEGISLATURE
IN RESPONSE TO ACT 56, SECTION 2 (2017)**

December 2018

Act 56, Section 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (HRS 353H: Offender reentry; identification documents), requires the Department of Public Safety (PSD), in collaboration with various agencies and upon request of inmates, to issue civil identification cards and to otherwise assist inmates in obtaining birth certificates, Social Security cards, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society and to annually submit to the Legislature a report detailing:

1. The number of inmates released from prison with and without civil identification cards, birth certificates, social security cards, and other relevant identification documents necessary for their transition into the workforce;
2. Any impediments encountered in assisting inmates with the process of obtaining their documents and civil identification cards; and
3. Any recommendations, proposed legislation, and other relevant information.

REPORTING DETAILS

Between January 1 to November 30, 2018, the Department released 257 sentenced felons upon the completion of their longest maximum prison sentence. During the same reporting period, the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) paroled 251 sentenced felons. The following table shows the numbers of sentenced felons released with and without the three main types of civil identification.

Identification Card	
With	Without
295	157
Total	452

Birth Certificate	
With	Without
233	131
Total	364

Social Security Card	
With	Without
208	154
Total	362

All facilities indicate that all those who applied for one or more of the above items received them prior to release.

IMPEDIMENTS ENCOUNTERED JANUARY 1 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2018

The greatest difficulties faced by the Department have been in meeting the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005. The REAL ID Act enshrines the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission that the Federal Government “set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses,” including minimum security standards, for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and the federal agencies’ prohibition against accepting, for official purposes, licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. Hawaii and other states have made considerable progress in complying with the REAL ID Act, and every state has a more secure driver's licensing program today than before the passage of the Act. However, the issues are very complicated, and progress has been slow.

In accordance with Act 56, SLH 2017, PSD continues to work closely with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the issuer of driver's licenses according to Hawaii statute, to establish a timely, safe, and secure civil identification process for Hawaii's incarcerated felons who are nearing release for time served or parole, in keeping with our commitment to easing their reentry to the community.

Currently, PSD and DOT are working with the City and County of Honolulu's Division of Information Systems and the Division of Motor Vehicles (to whom the responsibility for issuing civil identification cards has been statutorily delegated), to pilot a program at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) for the issuance of civil identification cards. PSD anticipates that HCF will be ready to issue its first civil identification card by June 30, 2019 at a cost of \$40 per ID.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND OTHER VITAL RECORDS

In the case of obtaining or replacing birth certificates, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was formalized between PSD and the Department of Health (DOH) this year. This process involves PSD identifying those who are within ninety (90) days of release by expiration of their longest maximum prison term, participation in furlough or extended furlough, or parole. Once the need is identified, PSD and the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) staff work with the individual to complete a Vital Records replacement application specific to birth certificates.

The MOA also stipulated that funds from the Act 56 appropriation be provided to DOH to establish an accounting system to record, monitor, and cover the cost for each of the referrals made to them for the issuance of birth certificates and/or other vital records. (Vital records, such as divorce decrees, are often required before the individual may obtain his/her civil identification card.)

PSD is currently working with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to formalize a similar Memorandum of Understanding to establish a more efficient process for sentenced felons to obtain a replacement Social Security Card.

RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED LEGISLATION

None at this time.