

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**

March 17, 2022

H.B. No. 2169 HD1: RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER
REENTRY SYSTEM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports H.B. No. 2169 HD1, which will assist inmates procuring civil identification cards prior to their release.

An identification card can suffer a variety of fates when an individual is arrested and incarcerated. It is not uncommon for an identification card to be lost when an individual is arrested, either during the booking process or during the transition from cellblock to the correctional facilities. In some instances, identification cards are recovered as evidence by law enforcement and never released back to the individual. Sometimes, a pretrial detainee’s identification card is accidentally disposed of along with their personal belongings after thirty days if they have not been picked up by a friend or family member. For individuals serving longer sentences, their identification cards often lapse and expire.

Identification cards are necessary to transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing. Individuals are required to comply with federal Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification) to verify their identity and employment authorization of individuals hired in the United States before legally starting any job and must provide a government-issued identification card. *See* <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9>. Typically, in order to rent an apartment, in addition to submitting an apartment application, an individual can be expected to show proof of a driver’s license or another form of government-issued identification, pay stubs, proof of residence, banks statements, and rental history. Identification cards are now even necessary to show along with COVID-19 vaccination cards to enter government facilities (including libraries and state government buildings) and food/retail/entertainment establishments.

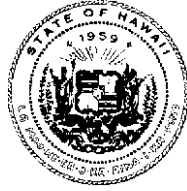
The process of obtaining an identification card is a difficult and lengthy process. For those who did not have an identification card prior to arrest, as of January 1, 2013, applicants for an initial state identification card are required to provide original or certified documents to prove each of the following categories: (1) legal presence, (2) legal name, (3) date of birth, and (4) social security number, and effective May 1, 2014, (5) Hawai'i principal residence address. The documents presented for proof must be valid originals or certified copies, and unexpired. See <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/files/2021/06/Acceptable-Documents-for-a-REAL-ID-Compliant-Star-DL-SID-Print-Button-2021-06-18.pdf>. Many inmates do not have access to the aforementioned documents. If the documents are not in their possession, it may take weeks, if not months, to obtain the necessary documents, and their lives are literally on hold during this wait time. Meanwhile, there are high expectations for some of these newly released individuals who must answer to a parole officer or probation officer.

For those recently released inmates who previously possessed an identification card, the process to obtain a duplicate card (or renewing an expired card) is also difficult. Walk-in appointments to the local department of motor vehicles are difficult (or non-existent); appointment times made on-line are weeks away. Requesting a duplicate card via U.S. Mail is often impractical, as many of the released inmates do not have a permanent or reliable mailing address.

Finally, we urge the committee to remove the inserted language found on page 2, lines 9-11 of the measure, which reads, "... provided that the inmate requests assistance after being notified that assistance is available." Rather than place the onus in procuring a civil identification on the soon-to-be released inmates, the Department of Public Safety should be required to provide inmates with civil identification cards upon release.

Clearly, for newly released inmates to have a chance to succeed in the community, it is essential that the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation assist inmates in procuring civil identification cards before their release. To neglect this crucial responsibility is to set-up many of these individuals for failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

March 17, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission

SUBJECT: **HB 2169 HD2, Relating to the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee

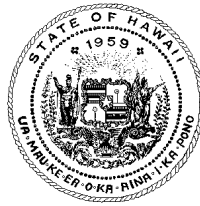
The Hawaii Corrections System Oversight Commission was created by Act 179, SLH 2019, to provide independent oversight over our correctional system. The Commission's statutory responsibilities include monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program of the Department of Public Safety and ensuring that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole. [See Hawaii Revised Statutes 353L-3(b).]

We understand the need to clarify the responsibilities of the various agencies. However, we oppose the proposed amendment to HRS 353H-32.c, as it would place the onus on the inmate to request assistance in obtaining the documents.

When it passed legislation to require that the Department assist inmates to obtain identification documents, the Legislature in its wisdom has acknowledged that these documents are essential for navigating life in the digital age. Obtaining proper civil identification documents can be challenging, even for people in the free community. Imagine if you've been in prison – perhaps thousands of miles away from home – for years, with very limited contact with your home community and virtually no means to telephone or access the websites of the relevant agencies? The transition from the highly structured life in prison to independent life is hard enough. PSD, which by law is responsible for care and custody, should assure that every inmate leave prison with proper identification documents whether they ask for them or not.

Therefore, we ask that the proposed new language in lines 9-11 on page 2 of this bill be deleted.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2169, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

March 17, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed House Bill (HB) 2169, House Draft (HD) 1, which amends section 353H-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to clarify that the Department of Public Safety's role is to work with the Department of Transportation and the county Examiners of Drivers to assist inmates in procuring civil identification necessary to transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing, rather than to actually issue civil identification cards. PSD supports the intent of this measure, to clarify its role to work with other agencies, rather than issue civil identification cards itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support HB 2169, HD 1.



Committee: Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 1PM
Place: Via videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i; Oppose HB 2169 HD1
Relating to the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i) opposes **HB 2169 HD1** which clarifies that "the Department of Public Safety's role is work with the Department of Transportation and County Examiners of Drivers to assist inmates in procuring civil identification cards necessary to transition into the work force, access social services, and secure housing, rather than issue civil identification cards." **We oppose the watering down of the Department's responsibility to provide civil identification to people existing our jails and prisons.**

The ACLU of Hawai'i is committed to transforming Hawaii's criminal legal system and building a new vision of safety and justice. First and foremost, we advocate for decarceration strategies to reduce the number of people in our jails and prisons, the majority of whom are Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and people of color. Simultaneously, we advocate for sensible conditions of community supervision, humane conditions of confinement. meaningful rehabilitation opportunities, and **comprehensive re-entry support services that starts from the first day of incarceration.**

The U.S. Department of Justice has recognized the provision of identity documents as being "critical to successful reentry."¹ Since 2017, the Department of Public Safety (PSD) has been statutorily mandated to provide effective and comprehensive reentry planning and to issue civil identification documents to people exiting jails and prisons. Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 353-H, DPS "shall issue civil identification cards" for people who are imminently reentering society.² Additionally, DPS "shall assist" people in "obtain[ing] the inmate's birth certificate, social security card and any other relevant identification documents necessary for the inmate to transition into the workforce."³

¹ U.S. Dep't. of Justice, *Prison Reform: Reducing Recidivism by Strengthening the Federal Bureau of Prisons* (2017), available at <https://www.justice.gov/archives/prison-reform>.

² Haw. Rev. Stat. section 353H-32.

³ *Id.*

More than five years later, PSD has failed to meet this mandate, both for people leaving jails and prisons. **According to PSD' own Reentry Coordination Office, between October 2018 and November 2019, more than half (56 percent) of people exiting jails and nearly as many (46 percent) exiting prison statewide left without state identification cards.**⁴

The failure to provide identification documents to incarcerated and returning individuals to our community is putting already vulnerable people at further risk of harm during the present pandemic by leaving individuals more susceptible to housing and economic insecurity. These documents are necessary to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill prescriptions for medication.

In a letter dated May 19, 2020, former PSD Director Nolan Espada, confirmed that PSD “received approval from the SPO (State Procurement Office) to use the same vendor that C & C uses to purchase its specialized equipment and software, to be eventually installed at correctional facilities statewide. PSD is awaiting the vendor’s final compliance issue to be resolved by the State’s SPO as required for this purchase” for the purpose of issuing civil identification documents.

Now, two years after the issuance of this letter, ***PSD is submitting testimony to lawmakers requesting to water down the Comprehensive Reentry law by making what was once mandatory (DPS "shall issue civil identification cards to inmates who have one year or less...") into a less definitive requirement (DPS "shall assist inmates . . . in obtaining a civil identification card.")***

As the Hawai'i Correctional Oversight Commission observed in their prior testimony, the proposed bill improperly places the onus on the incarcerated person to request assistance, when really it should be the default for DPS to provide assistance (even absent a request).

Comprehensive reentry planning services are more important now than ever because those exiting jails and prisons in the time of COVID-19 face incredible challenges, including high unemployment rates and an increase in the number of people requiring housing assistance.

Prioritizing reentry planning is not only humane—it makes our communities safer. ***Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released.*** Reentry programs that help people secure civil identification, jobs, treatment, housing, and education, have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities.

⁴ Dep't of Pub. Safety, Reentry Coordination Office Annual Report on Civil Identification Documents (2019), available at <https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/RC-12.4.19-Minutes-DRAFT-01.02.20.pdf>

In closing, we urge lawmakers to ensure PSD's compliance with their legal obligations to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents under the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System. This is a minimal requirement that the Department of Public Safety should provide in order to enhance reentry success.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns relating to **HB2169 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

Carrie Ann Shirota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai'i

cshirota@acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2169, HD 1

TO: Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: March 17, 2022 (1:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 2169, HD 1, which clarifies that the Department of Public Safety assist inmates who have one year or less prior to release with the procurement of civil identification necessary to transition access social services, secure housing, and transition into the workforce.

Ideally, the Department of Public Safety would engage in a range of pre-release planning to facilitate the procurement of identity documents, as well as provide linkage to post-release housing opportunities, medical care, and other available government support. However, current practice is to leave those released without adequate support. This dramatically increases the likelihood of joining the ranks of the unsheltered homeless.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. HHRC provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore. Many of those we serve struggle with obtaining identity documents, including those who have been released from carceral facilities.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 17, 2022

1:00 PM

Via Video Conference and Conference Room 229

in consideration of
HB 2169, HD1**RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.**Chair Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the
Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments on HB 2169, HD1, which clarifies that the department of public safety's role is to work with the department of transportation and county examiners of drivers to assist inmates in procuring civil identification cards necessary to transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing, rather than issue civil identification cards

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy through voting modernization efforts such as adopting Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). AVR was passed by this Legislature in 2021 and signed into law as Act 126, SLH 2021.

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments inquiring as to how HB 2169, HD1 will interface, or if it will at all, with AVR, Act 126, SLH 2021. Common Cause Hawaii supports proactively providing assistance to incarcerated individuals in procuring civil identification necessary to transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing.

Common Cause Hawaii is unclear as to how this assistance will interface with AVR or if it will at all. “[I]f a person is placed on probation or the person is paroled after commitment to imprisonment, the person may register and vote during the period of the probation or parole.” See <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/voters-with-a-felony-conviction/> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). AVR, Act 126, SLH 2021, provides an application for voter registration shall be part of the issuance of an identification card under Hawaii Revised § 286-303.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2169, HD1. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2022

1:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT W/ SUGGESTION - HB 2169 HD1 - IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee!

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 more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf HD1 of the more than 4,008 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,110 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 Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful for this opportunity to share our testimony in strong support of proper identification documents for returning citizens with a suggestion.

SUGGESTION

Since the department of public safety knows who is going to be released in a year, **it might be helpful for the Reentry Coordination Office to create a form or a checklist of the usual documents that are needed for a returning citizen to successfully transition to community life.**

Our concern is about our incarcerated population that speak eight (8) different languages: Chuukese, English, Hawaiian, Ilokano, Samoan, Tagalog, Tongan, and Vietnamese, who may not know what documents they need.

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 7, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-97.pdf>

I spoke to the Department to ask about this and was advised that when there are language challenges, they look for others who speak English and another language to help the person understand that assistance is available and how to access it. If there is no one available to translate in a particular language, the department would provide an interpreter. The responsibility for this process is with the Reentry Coordination Office.

Persons returning to the community need the appropriate identification documents to assist them in cashing checks, opening bank accounts, finding housing, seeking employment, applying for a library card, and many other services.

We understand and mahalo the Otani administration who have advanced this issue by partnering with the City to move the process to this point. The department now has a computer (the same ones used at satellite city halls) that can scan documents that then go to the main City computer where the identification cards are made. the department then picks them up. The process will be done close to the person's release date.

Community Alliance on Prisons is happy that this is finally happening and thanks the Otani administration for their diligence in getting this important piece of reentry moving in the right direction.

Identification documents are vital for a returning citizen to ease the transition to community life.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB2169 HD1 PSD to help offenders get ID

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Thursday, Mar 17 2022: 1:00 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2169 HD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

Identification cards are an essential part of reentry to access needed services because many services are not possible without proper ID, including medical and behavioral health services, employment and even housing. As part of transitioning back into their community, proper identification is needed during this COVID-19 pandemic times to access restaurants, gyms, and more.

Having state-issued identification cards can play a crucial role in a person's successful reintegration into the community after incarceration. People leaving prisons and jails with state identification may be able to more quickly access vital services and support, and those without such identification will likely face significant barriers to successful reentry.¹

Across the nation, states generally have to enact legislation to facilitate collaborations between public safety departments and transportation departments to issue state identification to incarcerated people prior to release.

With the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation working together, offenders have a chance that their reentry plans can be successful.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.

¹ State Identification: Reentry Strategies for State and Local Leaders
<https://www.justice.gov/archives/reentry/file/846416/download>

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:33:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Koulogeorge	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Decoite,

It is imperative that the Department of Public Safety provide civil identification documents to folks exiting incarceration so that they can access housing and employment opportunities, apply for social services, and obtain adequate medical care. The language in this bill is not strong enough, and I urge you to make amendments so that DPS has to follow through on their promises to support re-entry efforts of formerly incarcerated folks.

Re-entering the community after a stay in jail or prison is a tremendously difficult task, which is why we see such high rates of recidivism here in Hawaii. That's why the state must take critical steps to give these people a fair chance at securing their basic needs, which will provide them with a foundation for long term stability. There are a number of policies, programs, and services which can be implemented to support this population, but one of the easiest is to provide free, civil identification cards.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Peter Koulogeorge

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:54:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Walker	Testifying for Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice strongly supports this measure. It is common sense that an adult cannot properly function in the community without sufficient identification. The State and County governments need to take responsibility and ensure that all incarcerated people upon return to the community are provided sufficient identification documents. The lack of identification in Hawai'i for people leaving jail and prison is a longstanding systemic problem that must be addressed.

Mahalo for your public service.

Please contact Loren Walker, JD, MPH, lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org for more on our strong support for this bill.

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:40:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2169 HD1 Description:

Clarifies that the department of public safety's role is to work with the department of transportation and county examiners of drivers to assist inmates in procuring civil identification cards necessary to transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing, rather than issue civil identification cards.

I thought that the Department of Public Safety was allocated funding several years ago to provide ID cards to inmates upon release, but nothing ever came of it and who knows what the funds were used for. It's amazing how long it takes for these kinks to get ironed out. Please pay closer attention.

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:18:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Tadia Rice and I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tadia Rice

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:36:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisabeth Mather	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Elisabeth Mather and I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

As a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, I have seen the effects of failing to provide civil identification to people leaving incarceration. In the recent years I spent working with recently incarcerated individuals, they rarely left any of the correctional facilities with a state ID or driver's license. This resulted in barriers to obtaining bus passes, employment, and housing, which often contributed to relapse and recidivism. Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Elisabeth Mather

Benjamin Duke

Kailua-Kona

March 15, 2022

Re: HB2169

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Benjamin Duke and I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Benjamin Duke

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 5:18:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Greg Puppione and I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety’s compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU’s proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:19:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

03-15-22

RE HB2169 HD1

[HB2169](#)

Aloha e Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

Data tells us that 95% of people incarcerated in our jails and prisons will eventually be released; and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families, productive lives and communities. It crucial and urgent, from my experience as a Social Worker and Episcopal Priest, that the Department of Public Safety be in compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents. Thus, please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our families, friends and neighbors who are reentering our community, with these rehabilitative and equitable tools.

Mahalo for your consideration,

John A H Tomoso +, MSW, ACSW

51 Ku'ula Street, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

808-280-1749, john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

cc: Maui Reentry Hui

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:20:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members,

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support HB2169 HD1 with the ACLU's proposed amendments relating to Civil IDs.

People leaving our prisons need identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities.

I ask you to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Most people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support HB2169 HD1 so our siblings are provided with the identification they need to successfully reenter our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Carla Allison

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:02:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Slovak	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice-Chair DeCoite,

My name is Jasmine Slovak; I am an O'ahu resident. **I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.**

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community.

I ask Hawai'i lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo nui your consideration and allowing me to testify,

Jasmine Slovak

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:40:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety’s compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU’s proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Andrew Isoda

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:11:24 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:45:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inge Detlefsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Inge Detlefsen and I am testifying to request amendments to HB2169 relating to Civil IDs.

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. People re-entering communities need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Inge Detlefsen

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:26:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Anne Leake and I am testifying to **request amendments to HB2169** relating to Civil IDs.

I am a nurse practitioner serving homeless people on the Windward coast of Oahu. One of my services is to establish medical care to produce a certified medical encounter to establish identity in order to obtain a social security card and eventually ID. All this takes a while, keeping those recently released from prison in limbo, couch surfing or rough sleeping until they can even start applying for benefits, housing or jobs. An ID is critical.

Ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our jails and state prisons will eventually be released, and it is our responsibility to provide them with a fair chance at finding stability in our community. Folks exiting incarceration need civil identification documents to secure housing and employment, to enroll in many benefit programs, and to fill medication prescriptions. Reentry programs that help people secure IDs, jobs, treatment, housing, and education have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons and back to their families and communities. I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Anne Leake

LATE

HB-2169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:33:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/17/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara & Vice Chair DeCoite,

My name is Colleen Rost-Banik. I am a resident of Honolulu and a lecturer within the University of Hawaii. As a lecturer, I have the opportunity to teach sociology courses within the Women's Community Correctional Center.

I am testifying to **request amendments to HB2169** relating to Civil IDs. As is already law, it SHOULD be the requirement of DPS to issue civil IDs to those who are being released from prison. People need civil IDs to obtain jobs and to access a myriad of services in society. Amending the legislation to require DPS to only *assist* people who are incarcerated to obtain their civil ID places more responsibility and burden on inmates, who are already navigating large bureaucratic obstacles upon their release. It is not good public policy to make it optional for DPS to shirk their duty of providing civil IDs.

I urge lawmakers to ensure the Department of Public Safety's compliance with their legal obligation to provide comprehensive reentry planning, including the issuance of civil identification documents.

Please incorporate the ACLU's proposed amendments and support our neighbors who are reentering our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Colleen Rost-Banik