



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

February 1, 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: **SB 3137, Relating to the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System**

POSITION: SUPPORT in Part; OPPOSE in Part

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).]

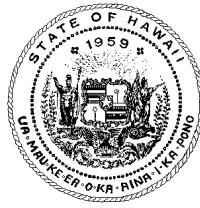
We support the portion of the bill that clarifies the responsibilities of the various agencies. However, we oppose proposed amendment to HRS 353H-32.c, as it would place the onus on the inmate to request assistance in obtaining the documents.

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 process of obtaining proper documents is complex enough that after years of diligent efforts by PSD, the issue has not yet been resolved.

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.

Mark Patterson
Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3137
RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.**

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports Senate Bill (SB) 3137, which seeks to correct the language in Section 353H-32(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and clarify any misconception of the Department's role.

This measure clarifies that rather than actually issuing civil identification cards, the Department's role has always been to assist inmates in navigating the process of obtaining certified civil ID's. PSD works with the State Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Customer Service in helping inmates to obtain driver's licenses and with other entities, such as the Social Security Administration, in applying for other forms of civil ID.

Passage of SB 3137 will correct the erroneous language in HRS Section 353H-32(a), and the Department urges the Committee's favorable consideration of the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity submit testimony on SB 3137.

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

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

1:00 PM

Via Video Conference

in consideration of
SB 3137**RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.**Chairs NISHIHARA, Vice Chair DeCOITE, and Members of the
Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments on SB 3137, 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 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 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 SB 3137 will interface, or if it will at all, with AVR, Act 126, SLH 2021. Common Cause Hawaii supports 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 SB 3137. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-3137

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:04:00 PM

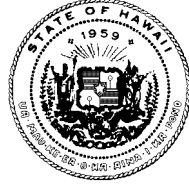
Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee. My name is Carolyn Eaton and I support this bill. Clarifying the roles of the two State agencies, and one County office, involved in authorizing and creating civil I.D. cards for incarcerated individuals in the 8-10 months prior to release, upon request, should eliminate a stumbling block which has held up much too long this extremely important element of successful re-entry. Please vote to advance this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 30, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3137 – RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY
SYSTEM.**

Hearing: February 1, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to amend 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 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 issue civil identification cards.

Individuals in the State's custody and who will soon re-enter the community need valid government-issued identification to support their reentry. Government-issued identification is required to gain employment, obtain housing, and obtain certain necessary prescribed medications. To clarify, individuals do not need government-issued identification to access social services from DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3137

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

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 1, 2022 (1:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 3137, 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 necessary to transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing.

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.

SB-3137

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:18:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB3137 which will clarify that the DPS will assist DOT and Examiners of Drivers and not be responsible for issuing the Civil ID Cards.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

SB-3137

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 6:58:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Esther Geil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill makes so much sense. Please pass it.

Thanks

SB-3137

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:56:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

After having "met" the previously legislative requirement that DPS provide IDs to people being released from prison by printing their own, totally useless IDs, I understand that DPS is currently preparing to carry out the intent of this act. However, given past history, I urge you to pass this bill to ensure that the IDs provided are Official IDs issued by the Counties, though, through coordination, they may be printed at Halawa. Please pass this bill.

SB-3137

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:58:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 3137 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 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 **issue** civil identification cards.

Mahalo for your support of SB 3137.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

SB-3137

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:44:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in support.