

SR-82

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Testimony for PSM on 3/31/2023 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a concerned citizen writing in strong support for SR82 which requires the Department of Public Safety to report to the Legislature and the public about its progress in providing ID cards to those exiting prison.

The Legislature has awarded the PSD \$125,000 over the past seven years, beginning in 2016, and the public has been wondering why it has been taking so long to issue ID cards. Identification documents are essential for people exiting prison to successfully conduct any kind of financial transaction such as renting an apartment, buying a car, or buying a plane ticket as well as proving one's identity to obtain a driver's license, get a job, etc. It is reassuring that the current director of the PSD has said that he is making this issue a priority.

Even so, reporting to the Legislature and the public, as well as to the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission, will be important to make sure the process stays on track and the Department can account for the \$125,000 of taxpayer money that has been allocated solely for the purpose of issuing ID cards. Issuing ID cards is the least we can do to assist those released from prison to successfully reenter our communities and become financially stable and productive citizens.

This issue highlights one of the important roles that the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission plays in ensuring that legislation is complied with and doesn't fall through the cracks and be forgotten inbetween legislative sessions, as it seems has been the case with this issue in previous years.

Please pass SR82 to help those released from prison to more easily reenter society. When those exiting prison are able to more easily get back on their feet and become financially independent members of society, this ultimately makes our communities safer and reduces the financial costs of recidivism to the taxpayers.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

