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GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 11, 2025  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 224

**H.B. 177, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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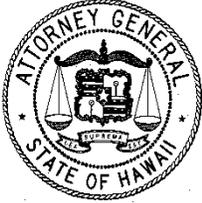
The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **opposes H.B. 177, H.D. 1**, which makes the issuance or renewal of a civil identification card free of charge.

The HDOT opposes this bill which will have a detrimental impact to being able to continue to offer such services to the public without funding to maintain the program.

The cost for a Hawaii civil identification card (SID) is \$40 for an eight-year period. In fiscal year 2024, the cost to operate the SID program was \$1,223,523 with revenue of \$1,398,441. Although there was net revenue of \$174,918, as the personnel and credential printing costs continue to rise, the SID program will face a revenue deficit.

For individuals who are homeless, the State rule allows for the waiver of all fees related to the issuance of an original or renewal ID card for any individual who is homeless, provided that the individual's homeless status is verified via letter issued by an authorized homeless provider.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 177, H.D. 1, RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 224

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Rachel Jordan, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments on this bill.

The bill proposes to make civil identification cards in Hawaii free of charge for residents and temporary residents. Specifically, it aims to eliminate all fees associated with obtaining, renewing, or replacing identification cards and repeal the existing Civil Identification Card Fee Special Fund, with any remaining balance to be transferred to the general fund.

Currently, the examiner of drivers in each county processes and issues civil identification cards in accordance with chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Article VIII, section 5, of the Hawaii State Constitution provides:

If any new program or increase in the level of service under an existing program shall be mandated to any of the political subdivisions by the legislature, it shall provide that the State share in the cost.

This bill may trigger such an increase by requiring counties to incur costs without a dedicated funding source. Because of the potential increase in the current level of service under an existing program, and insofar as the bill does not provide that the State share in any costs incurred by the counties, the mandated requirements in this bill may be subject to constitutional challenge.

Accordingly, the Department recommends including provisions in the bill ensuring that the State shares in the cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES**  
**KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KUPA**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ADMINISTRATION

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DIRECTOR  
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MEGAN JOHNSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation  
and Culture and the Arts  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

**SUBJECT: H.B. No. 177, H.D. 1 - Relating To Civil Identification Cards**  
**HEARING: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) opposes this bill and appreciates the opportunity to offer comments to H.B. No. 177, H.D. 1 relating to civil identification cards for your committee's consideration.

Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD administers, among other things, the motor vehicle driver licensing and state identification program for the island of O'ahu.

H.B. No. 177, H.D. 1 makes the issuance or renewal of a civil identification card free of charge, effective June 30, 3000. The cost for a Hawai'i civil identification card (SID) is \$40 for an eight-year period. The current cost to operate the SID program is approximately \$1,223,523, with revenue of \$1,398,441 in fiscal year 2024. The grant total for the SID program for fiscal year 2024 was \$174,918. As the personnel and credential printing costs continue to rise, the SID program is already facing a financial challenge.

CSD opposes this bill which will have a detrimental impact on the ability of the State and the counties to continue to offer such services to the public. The loss of fees

Testimony for H.B. No. 177, H.D. 1  
March 10, 2025  
Page 2

charged in connection with the issuance or renewal of any civil identification card under Chapter 286, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, would negatively impact the State and the counties. Currently, nine (9) CSD Division of Motor Vehicle Registration positions are reimbursed by the State through revenues generated from fees charged in connection with the issuance or renewal of civil identification cards.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 177, H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director



**WAIANAЕ COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

To: Chair Chris Lee  
Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye

From: Ian Ross  
Public Affairs Director  
[ianross@wcchc.com](mailto:ianross@wcchc.com) | (808)652-3380

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 177 HD 1 - RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

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Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ian Ross, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the West O'ahu community through accessible and affordable medical and traditional healing services, including outreach to people experiencing homelessness, crucial for our community's wellbeing. With 52 years of service, WCCHC is committed to providing comprehensive healthcare by addressing social determinants of health.

WCCHC strongly **supports HB177 HD1**, which would allow residents to obtain a civil identification card free of charge. This bill would significantly benefit individuals experiencing homelessness, who often face overwhelming barriers when trying to access essential services, including housing, healthcare, and employment.

Through our outreach to those experiencing homelessness, WCCHC works directly with individuals who struggle to obtain or replace lost identification documents. Identification is a requirement for entering shelters, applying for housing assistance, securing employment, and accessing public benefits such as healthcare and food assistance. The financial burden of obtaining an ID, though seemingly small, is often a large barrier for those without stable income.

By eliminating this cost, HB177 HD1 would remove a critical obstacle for our unhoused patients, allowing them to take the first step toward stability. For many, something as simple as obtaining an ID is the key to unlocking a pathway out of homelessness.

**We urge the Committee to pass HB177 HD1** and remove unnecessary barriers to services for our most vulnerable community members.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-177-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:45:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalae Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Making the State ID free would help citizens we need this for homeless and kupuna even those with physical disabilities who don't or cant drive would benifit

I strongly support mahalo

THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on HB177, HD1 – RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

I'm submitting testimony in **strong support** of HB177, HD1. Sometimes the barrier for the poor to access the necessary services is the inability to get an Identification card (ID). Hawaii State ID's cost \$40. That's a lot of money for some who have to choose between groceries and bills.

Every state agency requires IDs to receive any sort of services/resources. Outside of that, IDs are needed in almost every aspect of life. From trying to find a job, going to the bank, picking up your child early from school, providing payment at the cash register, finding a new healthcare provider, traveling off-island, voting at a voter service center, even entering State Capitol Grounds to testify.

The function of government is to help and work for the people. Removing this barrier is a great way to show that.

Mahalo for letting me testify on this matter.

Tuli Tafai

Aloha Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye, and members of the committee,

My name is Taii Matautia. As a private citizen, I am submitting testimony in support of the proposed amendment of bill HB177 and urge you to pass this bill.

Civil identification is considered a practical necessity for everyday life. More times than not, the need to present identification is required – to gain employment, to open a bank account, to obtain supporting documentation from state or federal offices, to conduct basic living business such as seeking housing or applying for public assistance, to establish healthcare, to register for education and many more base line resources to even begin acquiring necessities that promote stability. A government system that requires identification to attain services or apply for opportunities should strongly consider offering that identification type to be free of charge. It allows everyone the same opportunity to access all that was mentioned above without the barrier of affordability. The high cost of living in Hawaii can be a deterrent to economic growth and workforce affordability. With that being said, the current fee of \$40 for a new or renewal of the state identification card is equivalent to the following cost of basic living necessity that it could be applied to instead, such as:

- A meal for the day or two for an individual
- A month's worth of infant formula
- A 100 days of reduced school lunch for a public school student
- 14-16 days of standard school lunch for a public school student
- 4 meals for an elderly or disabled adult through a meals on wheels program
- To pay for attaining supporting documents required for the state identification
- To pay for public transportation to get around for about 7-10 days on Oahu
- To use toward an initial deposit to open a bank account
- To use toward copay for a doctor visit
- To use toward copay for a prescription
- Covers the cost of an average rental application fee in Hawaii

There is so much more that could be listed and I'm confident in your discernment to think of a few more scenarios yourself. In my line of work, which is within community service, on a daily basis there is always a scenario that presents itself which includes a client not having a valid civil or government issued identification. Whether it be, the client lost it to it being stolen. Most times, it is clients that are nearing homelessness again, just getting out of homelessness, affected by some kind of domestic abuse, affected by unemployment, elderly who live alone or young adults navigating adulthood. These specific type of clients mentioned are almost always in the earnings of 30%-40% area median income housing limit or even less. With all the eligibility requirements and basic identification needs for assistance or resources, let's not allow attaining a valid civil identification at a cost be the barrier that allows a citizen to have access to basic living resources in our community or in any community for that matter. My hope is that you consider this testimony to aid in this important piece of legislation that will allow access to a document that could assist tremendously in the lives of everyone in our community, but most desperately to our underserved populations. Everyone deserves a chance to be able to re-enter into society and an affirming start would be to obtain valid civil identification – free of charge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Taii Matautia  
Private Citizen