



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

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

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

DATE: Thursday, February 6, 2025 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 430

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

Chair Kila 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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February 6, 2025
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 430

H.B. 177
RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION CARDS

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **opposes H.B. 177**, 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. The current cost to operate 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Rep. Darius Kila, Chair

Rep. Tina Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 06, 2024, 10:00 AM

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB177 – RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

I'm submitting testimony in **support** of HB177. 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.

Mahalo,

Tuli Tafai

Private Citizen

HB-177

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:01:07 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT we need this for homeless.

HB-177

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:43:19 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Having government furnished ID is critical to functioning in modern society. Sometimes, the people who need government ID the most have the least means to acquire it. I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!