



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 845
RELATING TO ALTERNATIVES TO IDENTIFICATION

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 2, 2017; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of House Bill (HB) 845 and would like to suggest a change to the sentencing timeframe to increase the effectiveness of the process.

Currently, PSD collaborates with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Social Security Administration, and the relevant County agency to assist offenders in obtaining valid identification. The current process requires that an application for an identification card be made in person, therefore, limiting the issuance of an identification card to offenders who are community custody and enrolled in the furlough program at the relevant Community Correctional Center as the best methodology.

PSD would like to suggest that HB 845 be expanded to include offenders with a sentence of less than a year or whose minimum sentence will be expiring in less than a year. The issuance of a copy of the birth certificate required in the process can be facilitated at the facility by the case management staff. PSD is working with the Social Security Administration to develop a Memorandum of

Testimony on HB 845
House Committee on Public Safety
February 2, 2017
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Agreement to coordinate an offender obtaining a replacement Social Security card through validation by approved PSD staff.

In addition, the Legislature may wish to consider appropriating sufficient funds and to possibly consider developing a voucher system to assist offenders with the cost charged by State and County agencies to obtain the relevant documents and identification, in order to ensure the success in meeting the objectives of HB 845.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 2, 2017
TIME: 11:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Support for HB845 – Relating to Identification

We support this measure, with amendments noted below, requiring the department of public safety in collaboration with the department of transportation and the counties, to issue civil identification to people leaving prison, and to assist them in obtaining their social security cards, birth certificates and other documents necessary for employment, housing, and other social services upon prison release.

It is endangers the public safety to release people from prison without the identification required to obtain jobs, housing, health care, and social services.

The bill should be amended to include that all inmates being released from prison shall be subject to this bill. The bill should not be limited to only those “inmates who have fewer than six months remaining on their prison sentence.” Many people are released from prison with much more than “six months remaining on their prison sentence.”

Everyone leaving prison needs civil identification for successful reentry into the community regardless of how many months they have remaining on their prison sentence. Having civil identification is a vital for functioning legally in society. All individuals leaving prison have needs including housing, health care, employment and other social services, which civil identification is necessary to obtain, in order to be law abiding and a functional member of our community. Every individual leaving prison need identification regardless of their being paroled or being released after serving their entire sentence in prison.

The state has custody of people in prison and it must take responsibility for assisting these people obtain civil identification when they leave prison, in order to assist them successfully transition back into the community. This is a duty that the state must fulfill just as it asks each person to fulfill their responsibilities and obligations in prison, and upon their release.

I am executive director of Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice a 30+ year old non-profit dedicated to improving our justice system. We work to increase democratic behavior by engaging people in positive civic activities and decision making. We design, implement and measure pilot projects using applied learning in an effort to generate evidence-based knowledge of what works to improve civic behavior. We have been working with imprisoned people since 2004. Many articles about our work assisting formerly imprisoned people reenter the community, have been published and disseminated. Others, nationally and internationally, frequently contact us for assistance with reentry programs and policies.

Mahalo for your public service. Please contact me at (808) 218-3712 and lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org for any questions or comments about our work and our support for this bill with the amendments, to help individuals successful reentry the community after imprisonment.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker JD, MPH

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**African American Lawyers Association
1188 Bishop St. #1908
Honolulu, HI 96813**

January 31, 2017

**Committee on Public Safety Representative Greg Takayama, Chair
Representative Matt LoPresti, Vice Chair**

**RE: Testimony In Support Related to Identification HB845
Hearing Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11:00 AM, Room 312**

Dear Chair Representative Takayama, Vice Chair Representative LoPresti and Committee Members:

The African American Lawyers Association supports HB 845 which assist inmates who are released from prison to obtain civil identification cards and birth certificates and relevant identification which is necessary for successful reentry. I personally know some former inmates who have come to my office requesting assistance because they can not obtain their identification and as a result have difficulty in getting a job and transition to the work force and to also assist with obtaining housing and social services. This Bill will ensure that they will be assisted in obtaining necessary identification.

By Daphne E. Barbee Wooten
President
African American Lawyers Association



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 845 Relating to Identification
House Committee on Public Safety
Scheduled for Hearing Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11:00 AM, Conference Room 312

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and Members of the Committee Public Safety:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 845. When people are released from prison, it is in everyone's interest to ensure that they have a smooth transition into the community. When former prisoners are able to obtain employment and housing, they have an opportunity to become self-sufficient rather than relying on public resources. Also, their likelihood of recidivating is dramatically reduced.

Obtaining employment and housing are difficult with a criminal record, and those releasing from a period of incarceration need support with their efforts in order to have a realistic opportunity of success. At minimum, Hawai'i should ensure that people are able to obtain identification prior to release, without which it is next to impossible to obtain housing or employment.

Hawai'i Appleseed supports HB 845 because it helps people obtain identification prior to release, removing a significant barrier to successful reentry into the community. In doing so, it will not only help those releasing from prison have a greater opportunity for successful reintegration into society, it will benefit the community as a whole by reducing the burdens placed on our public support system and decreasing the likelihood of recidivism.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill.

lopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:40 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: While we support the intent of this bill, we do offer a CAVEAT: That allowing furloughed to obtain "Real I.D.'s" may lead to an unintended consequence i.e. Flight Risks! As it stands now, people on work furlough fail to return from work furlough on a regular basis. However, because they do not possess "Real I.D.'s", they do not pose a flight risk. The farthest they can go is around the island that they are furloughed to. The following information regarding both the State I.D. & the State Drivers License demonstrate that for the purposes of boarding a plane to ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, Hawaii's I.D. System meets all Federal Requirements for the "Real I.D." requirement for passing TSA Security Check points: HAWAII FULLY COMPLIANT WITH REAL ID STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS LICENSES, STATE IDENTIFICATION CARDS Posted on Sep 17, 2013 in Highways News, News HONOLULU – The State of Hawaii's enhanced requirements for Driver's Licenses and State Identification Cards have been deemed as fully compliant with the Real ID Act of 2005, following a review and certification by the Department of Homeland Security. New identification requirements to prove "Legal Presence," confirming that a person is either a U.S. citizen or is legally authorized to be in the United States, for state-issued Driver's Licenses took effect in Hawaii on March 5, 2012, and for State Identification Cards on January 2, 2013, to conform with the Real ID Act. "With this federal certification, Hawaii now officially meets the standards of the Real ID Act, which creates uniform requirements for all state-issued identification cards nationwide," said state Department of Transportation Director Glenn Okimoto. "We want to thank our counties for their immense cooperation and we especially want to thank the public for their patience during the transition period." So, is there a reasonable alternative for furloughed people to obtain Identifications that DO NOT qualify as a "Real I.D.", yet is good enough for the furloughed person to gain employment? Who on this panel is willing to risk their Legislative career by being a signatory to this current bill?

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Committee: Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 312
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii with comments in **Support** of H.B. 845,
Relating to Identification

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 845, which mandates the Department of Public Safety and appropriate state/county agencies to issue identification documents (ID) to inmates within six month of discharge for successful reentry into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing.

A means of identification plays a huge role for a former inmate’s transition to public life. Having an official government-issued ID increases the likelihood for better job prospects, stable housing, educational opportunities, and other possibilities. Newly hired employees are often required to provide copies of state or federally issued identification. Even when individuals are able to find employment, the lack of identification makes it difficult to cash paychecks or open bank accounts. These barriers increase the likelihood of failure during initial attempts of reentry—which can result in individuals returning to crime as a means of survival. According to a study from the Legal Action Center¹ the first few weeks after discharge are extremely critical to successful reentry and preventing recidivism. Thus, it is imperative to make this transition as smooth as possible by obtaining identification prior to release.

Recent actions from several state legislatures reveal the feasibility of the H.B. 845. In Oregon, a month prior to release, a card is issued through which food stamps and welfare are paid, avoiding the need for individuals to cash checks before obtaining identification. In California, a parole division directive was initiated requiring inmates to attend programs focusing on: housing, employment, education, and substance abuse. An employee of the Department of Motor Vehicle takes photos and collects relevant information from inmates so IDs can be issued upon release.

The ACLU of Hawaii applauds the Department of Public Safety for innovative, vocational rehabilitation programs such as the Correctional Industries (CI) Division. However, the ACLU of Hawai’i urges the state legislature to take it a step further and require interagency agreements that can ease the process for former inmates to obtain state-issued identification.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Hawaii urges the Committee to support H.B. 845.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Legal Action Center, *After Prison: Roadblocks to Reentry; A Report On State Legal Barriers Facing People with Criminal Records*, (published 2004) available at http://lac.org/roadblocks-to-reentry/upload/lacreport/LAC_PrintReport.pdf.

Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee
February 2, 2017
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mandy Finlay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mandy" being more prominent than the last name "Finlay".

Mandy Finlay
Advocacy Coordinator
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii 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 Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Matt LoPresti, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 2, 2017

11:00 am

Room 312

HB 845 SUPPORT w AMENDMENT - IDENTIFICATION

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti 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 two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the approximately 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 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 Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports HB 845. Lack of identification is the biggest barrier to reentry for people exiting incarceration. That Hawai'i releases people with no identification and no money is criminal. It places every released person who has nowhere to go in jeopardy of being arrested.

The bill appears to be straightforward, however, a closer reading of it revealed something that I doubt the original introducers intended. Page 1, lines 8-9 read: *"...to inmates who have fewer than six months remaining on their prison sentence."*

This could be interpreted to mean the maximum sentence. This is problematic because it would exclude those released early to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement.

We, therefore, respectfully request the following amendment adding a new section to read:

(c) The State is required to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses.

Although the department says they do not throw out the personal property of the people in their custody we know, from the many calls and stories we have heard, that this is not true. A recent story was of a man jailed for 5 months whose wallet and identification was “missing” or thrown out upon his release. He is in a halfway house, has a job, got paid and cannot cash his check because he has no identification. Now that makes no sense. These are administrative things that the department should be sanctioned for. Throwing out personal property (or whatever happens to it) should not be allowed.

Since this is happening, perhaps the legislature should levy a penalty for every person released without their personal property, identification card, birth certificate, social security card and any other form of identification that is routinely required. The Legislature needs to track how often personal property goes missing and take appropriate action to ensure that it does not continue.

If we truly believe in supporting those reentering the community after incarceration, we will work to erase the many silly and fixable barriers that these folks confront. Identification is front and center in this skirmish!

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the community to pass HB 845 with the adoption of our amendment to include those released on work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement 90 days before they are placed on any of these statuses.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*"Imprisonment has become the response of first resort
to far too many of our social problems."*

Angela Davis



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 1, 2017

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in strong support of HB 845 which calls for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to issue civil identification cards to prisoners who are re-entering the community. HB845 also provides that DPS shall assist inmates in obtaining their birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful re-entry.

In 2013, I chaired the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force to examine why Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented at each stage of the criminal justice system. A key recommendation of the Task Force was to provide civil identification cards to persons re-entering the community. The Task Force strongly believed that such cards would assist the ex-prisoner in securing employment and housing, both associated with successful re-entry.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of HB845.

Michael Broderick

YMCA OF HONOLULU

1441 Pali Highway, Honolulu HI 96813
P 808 531 YMCA F 808 533 1286 www.ymcahonolulu.org

LANCE WILHELM, Chairman, Board of Directors
MICHAEL F. BRODERICK, President & Chief Executive Officer



TESTIMONY SAMPLE:

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Kelcie Watson. I am a case manager at the YWCA Oahu, working with women in the work furlough program, Ka Hale Ho'ala Hou No Na Wahine. I have been working with this population for approximately four years, both as an intern and as an employee. I am writing in support of HB 845, which addresses just one barrier amongst many, but it is one that can ultimately affect the quality of life and successful transition from prison into the community. HB 845 will allow people the ability to access essential services and support in a timely manner, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill.

Obtaining identification can be an extensive, costly, and extremely stressful process for a lot of people being released from prison. Most times, people come out of prison without any type of identification because it was either lost, thrown away, or expired while they were incarcerated. Not having any type of documentation creates a major barrier for an individual. The entire process is what people would call a "catch-22." In order to obtain a social security card, you must have an ID. In order to obtain an ID, you must have a social security card and it seems that the process continues to get more complicated as the years pass.

The time gap between their release from prison and obtaining identification can be the very thing that sends an individual back to prison as they may resort to illegal activities to get their basic needs met (i.e. steal food, sell drugs, etc.).

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill (with the proposed amendment) supports people in gaining stability and improving quality of life.

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in **support of HB 845**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

Many people returning to the community from incarceration are doing so without an ID. Without an ID, people are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. **House Bill 845** would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release.

Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.



Noriko Namiki
CEO
YWCA O'ahu

TESTIMONY:

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Roshian Lafaele. I am the Assistant Manager for the YWCA of Oahu work furlough program. I have been working with women transitioning from prison to the community since 2010. Over the years, the process of obtaining legal documents (birth certificate, social security card and ID) have not improved. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support HB 845

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

Our work furlough program is a minimum of 6 months. The women coming out of prison to the program will take at least 2-4 weeks to go through the process of obtaining all legal documents. This causes a delay in starting their program. In order to obtain employment, women must have a valid social security card and an ID. With this bill, it can help women prepare for the community life after prison.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill (with the proposed amendment) supports people in reclaiming their lives and contributing to the community in meaningful ways. Successful community reentry for offenders means safer communities for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; please support this most important piece of legislation with the above referenced amendment.

TO: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in support of HB 845. Providing civil identification cards for individuals transitioning from prison to the community is a critical element of their successful re-entry.

As an intern at a re-entry program for incarcerated women, I experience firsthand the significant barriers that stem from the lengthy process of gaining state identification. Not only does a lack of identification mean a delay in residents' ability to obtain employment and housing, it further impacts their ability to cash checks, secure an address through a PO Box, or even obtain a Hawaii state library card. As a result of such hardships many individuals feel pressured to turn to illegal activity as a means to meet their needs.

Ultimately, this chain of events increases recidivism. Providing civil identification straight from prison will positively impact housing and employment, two critical components of successful re-entry and reduced recidivism.

I am grateful for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.



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1566 Wilder Avenue
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Kokokahi YWCA
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Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
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808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in **support of HB 845**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language that would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

Many people returning to the community from incarceration are doing so without an ID. Without an ID, people are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. House Bill 845 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release.

Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

Name: Cynthia Hobson

Title: Program Coordinator

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 845

Thank you Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and committee members,

The YWCA O'ahu **supports the intent of House Bill 845**, which would require the Department of Public Safety and county and state agencies to assist inmates with obtaining identification.

Identification is an important piece for people leaving prison and transitioning into the community. The YWCA manages the state's only community based women's work furlough program and we have witnessed the negative impact lack of identification can have. Without an ID, a person cannot accept employment or secure housing-two vital pieces for successful reentry. Requiring inmates have identification prior to their release is a common sense policy that benefits the individual, community, and state.

House bill 845 would remove one of the most significant obstacles for reentry. However, as the bill is written, it does not seem to include many people who would be best served by receiving an ID prior to transition. I request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

The Department of Justice and former Attorney General Lynch acknowledged identification as necessary for successful reentry. Across the country, several states have passed similar legislation addressing identification and reentry. In Hawaii, many working within the criminal justice system have noted how lack of an ID is problematic. House bill 845 is an opportunity to solve this problem. Passing this bill would make jobs, housing, bank accounts, cashing a check, and the library accessible for a large group of people. A person could begin their road to self-sufficiency on day one of their release, not weeks or months later when they finally receive their ID.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier. For these reasons, the YWCA O'ahu **respectfully requests that this committee report the bill with amendment favorably on House bill 845**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

Kathleen Algire
Advocacy Coordinator
YWCA O'ahu

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in **support of HB 845**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

I oversee a work furlough, transitional housing, job readiness and job retention program for women reentering the community from prison, and see first hand the impact on of their not having an ID. Without an ID, our women are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. House Bill 845 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release. This would be so helpful to our women.

Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

Kehaulani Coleman
Director of Economic Advancement Programs
YWCA O'ahu

lopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:48 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM*

HB845

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Iopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:20 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: curilee@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cu Ri	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing in support of HB 845. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry. Many people returning to the community from incarceration are doing so without an ID. Without an ID, people are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. House bill 845 would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release. Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community. Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

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lopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:50 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: djf991960@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. As a retiree of the Public Safety Department, I worked specifically in the reentry of long term incarcerated sentenced felons. I would struggle often to assist many of the inmates trying to get back into society while working at Laumaka Work Furlough Center. This bill would make it so much easier for us to help these men and women get re-established into the community and may increase the probability for success.

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To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing date/time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and member of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Myra K Kahele I am from the Big Island and I have been here at FernHurst for about three weeks.

At the end of October 2015, I began working to obtain my birth certificate. I initiated the application process and completed the application on my own. I had to wait for the accountant to transfer money from my account to cashier's check to pay for the certificate. That process took 2 months. Once the money was in my account, the accountant mailed the check and application for me. I received the birth certificate in March of 2016. I was released January 6, 2017 with my birth certificate and a photocopy of my social security card. I went to the DMV and tried to obtain a state ID but was told I didn't have the proper papers. I was told I needed a certified medical statement that had my social security on it and proof of residency. I wasn't able to provide those items so my process to obtain my ID stopped. I attempted to obtain my social security card but because I didn't have an ID I was not able to enter the building. I made another visit to the office with my birth certificate and was able to enter the building. On my second visit, I was able to apply for the card and was told I would receive the card in two weeks. Once I receive that, I have to wait two week for my real ID. I will have been in the work furlough program for two months and I haven't been able to apply for a job.

It is a very frustrating process. When I went to apply for the ID, they wouldn't work with me and the documents I could provide. I wasn't able to get a certified medical statement. I was told at the DMV that if I made an appointment with my doctor, I could get a certified medical statement from the doctor. It is not easy for me to see a doctor. Because I am in the work furlough program, I have to go through the Women's Community Correctional Center. Getting an appointment is hard and takes time. If I had my ID when I left prison, I would be able to get a job, a bus pass; you need an ID for everything. I feel like an alien trying to do things without an ID.

I support people receiving an ID before they leave prison. Thank you for this opportunity to share my story.

Myra K Kahele

lopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:53 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair and members of committee: Thank you for this measure. Upon their release, the prisoners do not know where or how to get any identification which they need to apply for employment, get driver's license, etc. Having been cut out of society, assimilating back into the community is very difficult for them, so this one little step will help them immensely. Mahalo & Aloha, e. ileina funakoshi

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To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Strong support (with an amendment) for HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Aloha and Good morning Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Talia Cardines. I am the manager at the YWCA of Oahu's – Fernhurst Residence. We serve women transitioning from prison into the community through our work furlough and Homebase transition program. The majority of our population includes women who are either on work furlough status, extended work furlough status, parole, or those who have recently maxed out. I have worked with women transitioning from prison into the community for ten (10) years. I strongly encourage you to support **HB 845**.

I also request that the Bill be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison **prior to the completion of their sentence**; this would include those released to **work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement**. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should **be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses**. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison **upon completion of their full prison sentence** will benefit from this bill.

As you know, in order to work legally in Hawaii, two forms of ID are required; at least a valid photo ID and social security card. No legal identification, no legal employment. Many of those transitioning out of the prison system do not have these two forms of ID. Navigating the current system on Oahu can be daunting, time consuming, and discouraging. Depending on the individual's situation, this process can take anywhere from two (2) months and in the most extreme case I've seen, up to a year. The longer situations usually involve those that have been in prison longer or those who were born outside of Hawaii.

With your support of **HB 845 (with an amendment)**, re-entry can begin well before they walk out of the prison gates. With a photo ID and social security card in hand, they will be able to gain legal employment, open up a bank account (for many, it will be their first time), pay and file taxes, and access health care. These are essential starting points for re-entry.

Mahalo very much for the opportunity to testify.

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Maryann Bray. I am a Program Coordinator at the YWCA Oahu.

I went to TJ Mahoney Work Furlough in November 2013, after 36 years of incarceration. I had no Identification, nor did I have my Social Security Card. I did have a certified copy of my birth certificate.

However with the process of needing an ID to get a Social Security Card, and needing a Social Security Card to get an ID, I encountered many obstacles. All I needed was a "replacement" Social Security Card. I knew my SS number, and thought it would be a simple matter for the Social Security Office to look me up in the system. I was mistaken.

Because I was incarcerated under my married name, and my Social Security Card was under my maiden name, I encountered even more road blocks. I had to, first, get a letter from the Warden at WCCC granting permission to return to using my maiden name, as I was divorced, and my maiden name was restored by the court. By the time I obtained this letter, the procedure had been changed at the Social Security Office where they no longer accepted such letters as proof of my identity. I then needed to obtain a copy of my medical records from WCCC signed by the doctor. I was informed by the Social Security office that once I got that, I would be able to get my Social Security Card. They failed to mention, at that point, that I would also need a certified copy of my divorce decree.

This lengthy process was an impediment to getting employment. I had been job searching, and interviewing for jobs, thinking I would get all my documents in a timely manner. I was hired for a job, and scheduled to begin training early January, 2014. Two days before I was to start work, I once again went to the Social Security Office to attempt getting my Social Security Card, and then my ID

from DMV, thinking I had all my documents in place. This was when they informed me I needed a certified copy of my divorce decree.

At this point, I was utterly frustrated. I needed to start working, but had no ID, nor Social Security Card. I went to the DMV office just to see if I could accomplish anything there. I explained my situation to someone at the Document Check table, showed all the documentation I had. She went and spoke to a supervisor, and they agreed to issue me a temporary ID, pending getting my Social Security Card.

It took me until mid-April, 2014 to finally get my Social Security Card, and then my permanent ID. I was fortunate enough to have the guidance and support of the Case Managers and Staff at TJ Mahoney's. Without that, the frustration, and challenges of the process could have gotten the better of me.

For people in transition, these documents, especially an ID, is critical in securing employment, housing, social services that are so necessary in a successful transition.

Maryann Bray

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Strong support (with an amendment) for HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Good morning Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Lorraine Robinson. I am a consultant for the YWCA of Oahu work furlough program for women exiting prison. For over 20 years, I served as Executive Director of TJ Mahoney & Associates (previous contractor for the women's work furlough contract). Having worked with women exiting prison for over two decades, I am certain this bill will help enhance the odds for successful reentry. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support HB 845.

I also request that the Bill be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill.

Even with proper ID, reentry from prison to the community is a daunting endeavor. Presently the majority of women in our program arrive without proper ID and can spend an inordinate amount of time obtaining identification. If ID was procured prior to their arrival at the program, it would expedite their being able successfully navigate the myriad tasks of reestablishing themselves as productive and contributing community members, most especially including securing employment.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill (with the proposed amendment) supports people in reclaiming their lives and contributing to the community in meaningful ways. Successful community reentry for offenders means safer communities for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; please support this most important piece of legislation with the above referenced amendment.

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in **support of HB 845**. Giving civil identification cards to people transitioning from prison into the community is a common sense policy. It will allow people to more quickly access essential services and support, and removes significant barriers to successful reentry.

I also request that the HB 845 be amended to include a provision for those exiting prison prior to the completion of their sentence; this would include those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement. The bill should include language which would require the State to assist those released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement with obtaining identification. This process should be initiated 90 days prior to them being released on those statuses. As the bill is currently written, only those exiting prison upon completion of their full prison sentence will benefit from this bill.

Many people returning to the community from incarceration are doing so without an ID. Without an ID, people are not able to apply for employment or housing; they cannot secure an address through a PO Box, cash a check, open a bank account, or even obtain a library card. However, gathering the necessary documents for obtaining an ID can be prolonged and cumbersome. It can take weeks or months before you have your birth certificate and social security card and are able to apply for identification. This process is especially difficult for those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time. **House Bill 845** would simplify the process by issuing an ID card prior to a person's release.

Employment and housing are vital to successful reentry and reduced recidivism rates. Without an ID, people returning to the community may have no legal means to support themselves or their families. Providing an ID upon transition gives a person the opportunity to be a financially stable, independent contributing member of our community.

Issuing identification prior to transition into the community is a successful reentry strategy. This bill supports people who are ready to start the next chapter of their lives by removing a small, but significant, barrier.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 11AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Subject: Please Support HB 845, assisting inmates in obtaining civil identification

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

Obtaining my physical forms of identification, was by far one of the most challenging trial I have faced coming out of the prison system. I served 5 years straight at the womens prison in Kailua. Once I was finally released on Parole, I had a check from WCCC and no way to cash it. (no legal form of ID)

I hit every barrier and stumbling block you could imagine and it took a total of nine months for me to finally get some form of identification. I tried going to the bank, social sec. office, and vital statistics with the letters of residence where I was staying and with my release/parole official papers and WAS looked at like I WAS crazy!! THEY were not accepted at any place....

I luckily had Chas Williams at worknet, who I CALLED everytime Id hit a wall, and he would do his best to try and help me figure out how I could possibly make this happen.. and he did... Thankfully so. BUT it wasnt easy..

You cannot have one without the other, so its a revolving door, a mess of non-sense and stress, that any normal human being probably couldnt deal with, let alone an inmate coming out of the system, with so much weight to carry (things and conditions to abide by) work fulltime, ua's, taking the bus, etc....

I struggled for so long trying to find my identity , and didnt even physically have one for so many years while incarcerated, and had no idea it was going to be a maze just to get one when i got out.. I HAD to get the money and help online with WORKNET to apply for one in the state of Louisiana. That took about a month to get back.. Then, I had to stand in lines, (before when it was on dillingham) that took all day.... to still be turned away, because I never had exactly what each office had requested.. The social security card especially was hard to obtain..

I remember being under so much stress, and not having a clue what to do. I understand why so many men and women, just give up and give into-- just being a nobody and going back (reverting) to their old ways... (no job, no place to rent, drugs, etc) because the system almost prohibits inmates to get all their proper documents in place before release---- I could not have my social security or birth cert. or any form of id sent to me while incarcerated (as per DEPT. of Public Safety, policy and Procedure.. If i was caught with any of these documents , I would recieve a write up.. With that said, I had to wait until released which put everything in my life on hold. thankfully I had a place to parole to and had time to get things together before jumping into employment.... most dont....

It really does something to ones overall morale, and spirit when you cant even get a public library card to use the computer or research, OR cash your own check, or find a job. because you have no form of identity-- to prove who you are.. I ALMOST FELT LIKE A terrorist or an immigrant... As if I didnt belong in society, and had no place---- on top of dealing with being displaced and dehumanized already for so many years.. Its a horrible feeling that I do NOT wish on any living being.....

I give this statement to be true and submitted for any purpose to help those who have gone thru or may go thru the same unnecessary challenges.

Tanya Lyn Jackson
1566 WILDER AVE
HON. HI 96822
808-922-2231 EXT 0

lopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:48 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: jeannine808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM

HB845

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha - Please support this bill to requires the Department of Public Safety in collaboration with county and state agencies to issue civil identification cards to inmates and to assist inmates in obtaining their birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry. I know women who are coming out of incarceration and into the YWCA of Oahu's community work furlough program who have a difficult time with re-entry into the workforce and stable housing because of this impediment. It should not pose another barrier to women or men seeking to have a productive life again. Your support of this bill to give them better access to basic identification helps with smoothing out their reentry into society.

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Iopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 3:29 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB845 on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM*

HB845

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for PBS on Feb 2, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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