



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

February 19, 2026

## TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

### House Bill 2217 – Relating to Identification

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 2217 – Relating to Identification. It allows applicants for driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards to request a nonapparent disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card.

People with disabilities sometimes have negative interactions with law enforcement which may have been avoided had the enforcement officer been aware of the disability. However, people use their driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards for many types of transactions. Therefore, the option offered in this bill must be voluntary on the part of the person with the disability.

Defining "nonapparent" is difficult and there may be disabilities which are apparent at certain times and nonapparent at others. Therefore, DCAB requests that the bill be amended to read:

**§286- [Nonapparent] D[e]isability; identification.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, an applicant for an instruction permit, provisional license, driver's license, limited purpose driver's license, limited purpose provisional driver's license, or limited purpose instruction permit, including any renewals, may request a notation on the applicable permit, provisional license, or driver's license that the individual has a [nonapparent] disability, at no additional cost.

(b) No applicant shall be required to submit proof of the applicant's [nonapparent] disability.

(c) The examiner of drivers shall not deny an application for a permit or license because the [nonapparent] disability selected by the applicant does not match that indicated on any other document.

(d) The department of transportation shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this section.

[(e) For purposes of this section, "nonapparent disability" means a disability or health condition that is not immediately obvious or visible, including developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities.]

SECTION 3. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part XVI to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**§286- [Nonapparent] D[e]isability; identification.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, an applicant for a civil identification card, including any renewals, may request a notation on the civil identification card that the individual has a [nonapparent] disability, at no additional cost.

(b) No applicant shall be required to submit proof of the applicant's [nonapparent] disability.

(c) The examiner of drivers shall not deny an application for a civil identification card because the [nonapparent] disability selected by the applicant does not match that indicated on any other document.

(d) The department of transportation shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this section.

[(e) For purposes of this section, "nonapparent disability" means a disability or health condition that is not immediately obvious or visible, including developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities.]

SECTION 4. The department of transportation shall:

~~[(1) Consult with the disability and communication access board with respect to the design of the nonapparent disability notation;]~~

(1)(2) Establish public outreach efforts to educate the general public on the availability of the [nonapparent] disability notation; and

(2) (3) Coordinate with the department of law enforcement and each county police department to ensure that annual training for law enforcement officers includes procedures for recognizing and appropriately responding to individuals with [nonapparent] disabilities notations on their permit, driver's license, or civil identification card.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director



**STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair  
House Committee on Transportation  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kila and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** HB2217 - Relating to Identification

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities appreciates the intent but must **respectfully oppose HB2217**, which allows applicants for driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards to request a nonapparent disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card.

While this measure intends to improve understanding during interactions with law enforcement and first responders, placing a disability notation on a state-issued identification card raises significant privacy and safety concerns. A permanent disability label on an identification document may increase the risk of stigma, misunderstanding, or discrimination in routine interactions unrelated to emergencies.

A general "nonapparent disability" notation does not communicate a person's actual access and functional needs. It does not indicate whether an individual requires communication supports, has sensory sensitivities, uses mobility equipment, or may need de-escalation strategies. Without individualized context, the notation may not meaningfully improve safety outcomes.

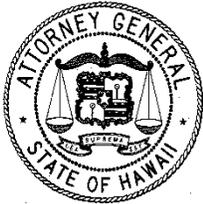
Additionally, in high-stress situations, reaching for a wallet or identification card may be misinterpreted by law enforcement and could unintentionally increase risk.

The Council supports more targeted, person-centered approaches to emergency preparedness and response, including voluntary and confidential systems that allow individuals and families to share specific access and functional needs directly with emergency dispatch and first responders when appropriate. These approaches improve safety while protecting dignity and privacy.

For these reasons, we respectfully **oppose HB2217**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2217, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**DATE:** Thursday, February 19, 2026      **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 430

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Michael J.S. Moriyama, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Kila and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to allow individuals with hidden disabilities, such as autism and other neurological or developmental conditions, to disclose their disabilities on their driver's licenses or identification cards to prevent escalations in interactions with law enforcement officers or other first responders.

Section 2 of the bill adds a new section to part VI, "Motor Vehicle Driver Licensing", and section 3 adds a similar new section to part XVI, "Civil Identification Cards", of chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Subsection (a) of the new section added by section 2 of the bill, on page 2, lines 10-17, permits an applicant to request that a nonapparent disability be noted on a driver's permit or license. Subsection (c), of that same new section, on page 2, line 20, through page 3, line 2, prohibits the examiner from denying an application for a driver's permit or license on the basis that the disability identified by the applicant does not match any other document.

Subsection (a) of the new section added by section 3 of the bill, on page 3, lines 13-17, permits an applicant to request that a nonapparent disability be noted on an identification card. Subsection (c) of that same new section, on page 3, line 20, through page 4, line 2, prohibits the examiner from denying an application for an identification card on the basis that the disability identified by the applicant does not match any other document.

The Department is concerned that applicants will be able to include any self-identified nonapparent disability whether or not medically verified. Without limiting the nonapparent disability to medically verified conditions, it would be unrealistic to expect law enforcement agencies to train their officers to be able to address every type of nonapparent disability people may note as a hidden condition and officers will be unable to interact appropriately, potentially leading to unnecessary and avoidable escalation in routine traffic stops or emergencies.

The Department is also concerned that, if there is no limit on the nonapparent disabilities allowed, even if medically verified, the wide range of potential medically recognized nonapparent disabilities will make it difficult for law enforcement agencies to train officers to respond appropriately. As a result, there is a risk that officers will be unable to interact appropriately, potentially leading to unnecessary and avoidable escalation in routine traffic stops or emergencies. Without designating, as other states such as Virginia have done, the specific nonapparent disabilities that can be disclosed, agencies will not be able to design and implement training programs to address those disabilities that can impair communications with law enforcement officers. The Department recommends that the Committee identify the specific medically recognized nonapparent disabilities that will be allowed to be indicated on an applicant's permit, license, or identification card.

The Department recommends that subsection (c) of the new section added by section 2 of the bill, on page 2, line 20, through page 3, line 2, (relating to chapter 286, **part VI**, and referring to applicants for driver's licenses and permits) be amended to read as follows (stricken material to be deleted from the bill):

(c) [The] When requested by the applicant, and upon presentation of a signed statement by a licensed medical professional verifying the applicant's condition, the examiner of drivers shall [not deny an application for a permit or license because the nonapparent disability selected by the applicant does not match that indicated on any other document.] indicate on the applicant's permit or license the applicant's medically verified nonapparent disability.

The Department recommends that subsection (c) of the new section added by section 3 of the bill, on page 3, line 20, through page 4, line 2, (relating to chapter 286, **part XVI**, and referring to applicants for civil identification cards) be amended to read as follows (stricken material to be deleted from the bill):

(c) ~~[The]~~ When requested by the applicant, and upon presentation of a signed statement by a licensed medical professional verifying the applicant's condition, the examiner of drivers shall [not deny an application for a civil identification card because the nonapparent disability selected by the applicant does not match that indicated on any other document.] indicate on the applicant's civil identification card the applicant's medically verified nonapparent disability.

The Department further recommends that subsection (e) of the new section added by section 2 on page 3, lines 6-9, (relating to chapter 286, **part VI**, and referring to applicants for driver's licenses and permits) be amended to read as follows (stricken material to be deleted from the bill and specific types of allowed nonapparent disabilities should be listed in place of the stricken material):

(e) For purposes of this section, "nonapparent disability" means ~~[a disability or health condition that is not immediately obvious or visible, including developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities.]~~ [INSERT specific types of allowed medically verified nonapparent disabilities.]

The Department further recommends that subsection (e) of the new section added by section 3 on page 4, lines 6-9, (relating to chapter 286, **part XVI**, and applicable to applicants for civil identification cards) be amended to read as follows (stricken material to be deleted from the bill and specific types of allowed nonapparent disabilities should be listed in place of the stricken material):

(e) For purposes of this section, "nonapparent disability" means ~~[a disability or health condition that is not immediately obvious or visible, including developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities.]~~ [INSERT specific types of allowed medically verified nonapparent disabilities.]

We would be happy to assist the Committee with wording for the definition.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill with the recommended amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

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

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ADMINISTRATION  
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O



February 18, 2026

The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair  
The Honorable Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: H.B. No. 2217 - Relating To Identification  
HEARING: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), offers **comments with concerns** regarding H.B. No. 2217, which allows any applicants for instruction permits, provisional licenses, driver's licenses, limited purpose driver's licenses, limited purpose provisional driver's licenses, or limited purpose instruction permits, and civil identification cards to be able to add a non-apparent disability notation to their identification. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) administers, among other things, the motor vehicle driver licensing and state civil identification card programs for the island of O'ahu. While CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

CSD supports efforts to promote safer and compassionate communication for people with non-apparent disabilities, but has concerns regarding the operational and financial impacts the proposed legislation will have on the City and County of Honolulu.

The proposed legislation would require modifications to CSD DMV's information technology system, CSD DMV forms, and CSD DMV internal policies and procedures.

Specifically, amendments to chapter 286, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), would introduce new responsibilities for CSD DMV, including but not limited to:

- Implementing changes to license renewals (section 286-107, HRS), instruction permits (section 286-110, HRS), and duplicate permits, provisional licenses, licenses (section 286-117, HRS), and civil identification cards (section 286-301, HRS);
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state data privacy and security requirements; and
- Conducting staff training and public outreach to support implementation and administration of the non-apparent disability notation process.

These additional responsibilities would be true statewide, as each county is responsible for administering motor vehicle driver licensing and civil identification card programs. Additionally, the proposed legislation may have unintended consequences for Hawai'i's current licensing processes and require further clarification on implementation timelines and funding support from the state.

Given these significant operational considerations, we respectfully request the Legislature provide clear guidance on funding, resources and the necessary time available for implementation. CSD DMV urges the Legislature to consider the impact on county operations and, should this matter move forward, requests a phased approach to implementation that will allow for a reasonable and adequate amount of time for the counties to research and assess implementation requirements, staffing, funding requirements, information technology and other resource impacts, necessary updated administrative procedures, staff training, and good public outreach.

With these considerations in mind, CSD appreciates the opportunity to comment on H.B. No. 2217.

Sincerely,

*for* Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:38:22 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Marsh	Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Hawaii Legislature</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Jess Stainbrook – Executive Director, Invisible Disabilities® Association</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>February 18, 2026</b>
<b>RE:</b>	<b>HB2217 – Disability ID Symbol</b>

**PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME:** People living with invisible disabilities are regularly discriminated against as people think they are faking or are not willing to provide accommodations as required by ADA law. Most police officers are not adequately trained to identify and communicate with people with disabilities. Over 50% of the people involved in unintended law enforcement deaths are people with invisible disabilities such as autism, IDD or other mental health illnesses or sensory needs conditions (i.e., deaf, hard of hearing, limited vision) that could be significantly reduced with this type of disability identification.

**SOLUTION:** By providing a designated symbol for a government approved ID or identifier database for vehicles, law enforcement can be made aware that someone has a disability and there can be validation that the disability is "real," diffusing possibly tense or discriminatory situations before they escalate into a tragedy.

**KEY COMPONENTS OF HB2217.** This bill provides for three main, life-changing initiatives:

1. The voluntary option to have a designated symbol on a driver's license or government ID;
2. The voluntary option to have information about a disability in a database that goes with a registered vehicle. So if you have a child that is on the spectrum, or someone that was non-verbal, that information could be available so that when a Law Enforcement Officer was looking it up, they would know before approaching the car that someone in the car might need some extra care or help.
3. This bill opens the door for certification training for law enforcement and first responders providing education about and resources for dealing with people living with invisible disabilities in the context of daily interactions.

Those in support of this bill have expressed the following:

- That having a voluntary designated and approved symbol on an ID will help identify people with disabilities in interactions with peace officers and law enforcement, something that "proves" that the disability is real even if unseen.
- This will often allow law enforcement to have information at the beginning of a contact that a person may have an intellectual, developmental, or physical disability or is neurodiverse. Law enforcement may not misinterpret indicators of a disability such as slurred speech, no eye contact, not responding to verbal commands, or overwhelm as indicia of deceptive or criminal behavior. Our hope is that this will lead to a greater understanding and reducing use of force incidents against people with disabilities.
- Having a field in the vehicle registration database, visible only to law enforcement upon query of the license plate to document that a regular driver or passenger that travels in the vehicle, has a disability that may need accommodations. This will provide piece of mind to many, including a mother concerned about what would happen if she was incapacitated in an accident and her non-verbal daughter could not communicate with first responders, a caregiver that gets pulled over with an IDD child that might react strongly if confronted by an unknown law enforcement officer, or a person driving with Cerebral Palsy whose slurred speech may be mistaken for indicia of alcohol intoxication. There are numerous examples.
- Creates the opportunity for starting a dialogue to provide new training for peace officers so they can understand how to better recognize and interact with people with disabilities or neurodiversity
- People living with invisible (and any) disabilities should have access to more equitable treatment and accommodations than are currently available.

## FAQs about Hawaii HB2217

1. Will having a symbol on an ID lead to more discrimination since the public will know what that symbol means?

RESPONSE: That is why it is voluntary. If someone feels that they may be discriminated against they do not have to participate or have the visible symbol on their driver's license or ID card. The purpose of having the approved symbol on a government ID like a driver's license is to open a positive discussion with law enforcement. Our hope is that the first question from an LE officer would be something like "How can I help provided accommodations so that this interaction will go more smoothly and less stressed for all?"

2. Will this be a path toward requiring government registration targeting people with disabilities, and subsequent discrimination against marginalized people groups like what happened in WWII?

RESPONSE: This is a voluntary registration for people that feel having these options would be helpful. There are NO mandatory registration requirements.

3. When I register, will someone be able to know what disability I have and discriminate against me as a result of that knowledge?

RESPONSE: There is no required information about a disability gathered or made available when applying and registering for these rights. You may choose to divulge as much or as little information as you would like on the license plate field available to law enforcement. The only people that would have access to the information that says you have registered is law enforcement looking up the vehicle license plate info.

NOTE: If you have a disability license plate and/or placard for disability parking, the government already has information about your disability specifically that you provided them to receive those items.

4. If I have a placard, will that help to identify that I have a disability?

RESPONSE: In a traffic stop, the officers are usually coming up from behind the car. Having the database link gives them this info before they even approach your vehicle. The placard may help, but after they have dealt with whatever the reason for them stopping you. Also, it is not uncommon for someone without a disability to be driving a car with a placard. Another good reason for registering for the database.

5. Does having this symbol on my ID or being registered in the database provide me with disability parking privileges?

RESPONSE: No, this will not provide disability parking privileges (unless you have a placard). The symbol or database registration is for the purpose of helping law enforcement know that you or someone in your car may have an invisible disability or neurodiversity that may need special care or accommodations.

For more information, contact: Jess Stainbrook, Executive Director – Invisible Disabilities® Association  
[jess@invisible disabilities.org](mailto:jess@invisible disabilities.org) 303-882-8256

## ----- Supporting Organizations -----

**WHAT IS AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY?** An invisible disability is a disability that cannot be seen as a result of using a visible assistive device such as a wheelchair, mobility cane, hearing aid or other device. Examples of invisible disabilities can include cognitive, mental health conditions, physical disabilities, neuro diversities, sensory needs and chronic illness/pain. That could be something like MS, Epilepsy, Diabetes, Fibromyalgia, Hard of Hearing - many conditions and illnesses are considered an invisible disability. About 80% of people with disabilities have an invisible disability according to CDC and NIH data. That's about 65 million people in the United States.

Here is a list of the supporting organizations as we passed this bill into law in Colorado and Utah:

1. Invisible Disabilities® Association	16. Neuro Equality	31. Young Invincibles
2. NAMI Colorado	17. Valideaf	32. Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado
3. Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council	18. Impact Disability Law	33. Colorado Health Network, Inc.
4. Firefly Autism	19. Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance	34. Scleroderma Foundation Rocky Mt. Chapter
5. Elevate Disability	20. Safe4All (IDD Mobile App)	35. Project Sanctuary
6. BIAC (Brain Injury Alliance Colorado)	21. Pulse Line Collaborative Training	36. National Multiple-Sclerosis Society – Colorado
7. HLA A (Hearing Loss Association of America) Boulder	22. Colorado Association of School Executives	37. LivLyme Foundation
8. Craig Hospital	23. Colorado League of Charter Schools	38. Adam Morgan Foundation
9. The ARC of Colorado	24. Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	
10. ARC Thrift	25. Colorado Education Association	
11. Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	26. GOAL Academy	
12. Autism Society of Colorado	27. JLH Consulting and Public Affairs	
13. Anti-Defamation League Mountain States	28. Poudre School District	
14. #ME Action (Myalgic encephalomyelitis)	29. READY Colorado	
15. Lupus Colorado	30. Stand For Children, Inc.	



**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:23:00 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billy Troy Wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 2217– Nonapparent Disability Identification Notation

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Troy Wooton, and I am a resident of Makakilo. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of H.B. 2217, which would allow individuals to voluntarily request a notation on their driver’s license or state identification card indicating a nonapparent disability.

While I am not an expert in this area, my nephew has autism. He is bright and capable, but like many individuals with nonapparent disabilities, he may respond differently in high-stress situations, especially during unexpected interactions such as a traffic stop or emergency response. In those moments, misunderstandings can occur quickly.

This bill offers a simple, voluntary, and no-cost option that could help first responders approach interactions with greater awareness and compassion. Importantly, it respects privacy by not requiring proof or mandating disclosure.

Providing individuals and families with this option is a practical step toward safer and more informed interactions between law enforcement and members of our community with hidden disabilities.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to the safety and well-being of Hawai‘i’s residents.

Respectfully,

Billy Troy Wooton

Upper Makakilo/Kapolei, Hawai‘i



**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:26:21 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

to include "invisible disability" - mental illness

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 6:45:15 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is Sarah and my son was diagnosed as artistic this past April. It took us almost 9 years for someone to finally listen to us that our child was different. He is considered a high functioning so you can't tell by just looking at him. It's a neurological disability that makes him have a hard time in certain aspects of his life. He was constantly misunderstood and mistreated in a public school simply because unless you were told about his disability, he would never suspect he was different. He struggled for the early parts of his life because his behavior was seen as defiant, He was seen as undisciplined, he was constantly getting in trouble over Essie misunderstandings because he just didn't understand. Without the understanding of his autism diagnosis, I worry in certain situations that things could escalate his dysregulation if the signs aren't recognized. That's why I feel this bill is really important. It also helps build understanding with first responders on how to better support people like my son. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Sarah Wooton

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 12:05:47 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Troy Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I could only imagine this being positive for the individual. It doesn't affect others in any way. As a first responder it will only help us help persons in need and could be the clue to understanding what is going on with persons needing help.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 8:02:22 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louisa Wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill.

As the grandmother of a child who has low spectrum autism, we have learned that there are many challenges for such individuals in our society. Most important is the lack of recognition and understanding about a disability that is not obviously apparent in many social and daily life situations.

I hope that you will support this bill for those residents and their families in Hawai'i who have disabilities of this sort.

Mahalo nui loa,

Louisa Wooton

Kilauea, Kaua'i

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 8:09:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ryan Wooton and I'm writing testimony in support of HB2217 in regards to adding a non apparent disability symbol on Hawaii State Id's. I'm a born and raised resident from the north shore of Kauai. I have a 9 year old son with High Functioning Autism that the average person would never guess he has especially if you haven't spent extended time with him. He has had problems in public schools since he seems like he is completely normal 90% of the time. Which means when he gets overwhelmed and can no longer mask he is just thought of as a bad kid when he just needs someone to understand his needs at that moment. He wasn't even diagnosed till he was 8 since he is so good at masking and was just considered to having behavioral problems when he was put into situations where he could no longer mask. He goes to ABA therapy 3 times a week to help him with regulating during this time but we still fear for his future. This simple little addition to a drivers license could be life saving for citizens with non apparent disabilities like my son. It will also help law enforcement officers understand how to communicate better with people like my son during high stress situations. There are lots of people like my son out there that have a wide variety of invisible disabilities and this would give them the option to feel more understood and able to communicate during a stressful time when interacting with law enforcement. As a life long citizen of Hawaii I hope this is something that can be quickly added so that people with non apparent disabilities can receive an extra set of understanding with law enforcement.

Mahalo

Ryan Wooton

Anahola, Kauai, Hawaii

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 9:38:21 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dee Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

This measure gives individuals the voluntary option to indicate a nonapparent disability on their driver's license or state ID at no additional cost. That simple notation can help law enforcement and first responders better understand a person's needs during stressful or emergency situations, leading to safer, more compassionate interactions.

Importantly, the bill protects privacy and dignity. No one is required to provide proof, and no application can be denied based on a disclosed disability. Participation is completely voluntary, and the choice remains with the individual.

This is a practical, low-cost step that promotes awareness, reduces misunderstandings, and helps protect some of our most vulnerable community members. I respectfully urge your support.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 12:33:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill could provide critical support to individuals in our community who struggle with hidden disabilities. As a mental health provider for over 30 years. I strongly support passage of this bill.

Judith C. White, Psy.D.

Kapaa

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 2:06:29 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Philip Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think this bill is important because too often people with hidden disabilities get into trouble because they seem to "normal" but do not react or respond in appropriate or expected ways. Being able to be identified as having a disability could help first responders interpret behaviors as the result of disabilities and not over react to how an individual presents in a difficult situation.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 2:26:07 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Joell Edwards. I am a small business owner and community advocate from rural Kaua'i, and I am writing in strong support of HB2217.

This bill is a simple, voluntary, and compassionate step toward safer interactions between individuals with nonapparent disabilities and law enforcement or first responders. Many disabilities are not visible. Autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairments, and neurological conditions may not be immediately apparent, yet they can significantly affect how someone responds in stressful situations such as a traffic stop or emergency.

In high-pressure encounters, misunderstandings can escalate quickly. A voluntary notation on a driver's license or civil ID provides a quiet, dignified way to signal that additional patience or communication adjustments may be needed. That awareness alone can prevent confusion, reduce escalation, and protect both the individual and the responding officer.

I especially appreciate that this measure:

- Is voluntary,
- Requires no proof of disability,
- Comes at no additional cost, and
- Includes coordinated law enforcement training.

In rural communities like mine, where resources and specialized response teams may be limited, proactive communication tools like this are even more important. This bill promotes dignity, safety, and understanding without creating unnecessary barriers.

HB2217 reflects thoughtful policy grounded in compassion and practicality. I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:27:38 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristy Arias	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My family and I got into a horrible accident a few years ago. My son has Tourette Syndrome. He is a part of the small percentage of TS community that has a complex version of TS. It involves coprolalia. My son who was 13 years old at the time, started having swearing tics due to being under stress as the police were asking him questions. I had to address the police woman who was looking at my son as a possible threat and communicate to her about his disability. I cannot stress to you how important this holographic sign on the identification cards will be to our disabled community. Put yourselves in their shoes, please. I see too many incidents where our first responders need to know quickly about someone's health status or if there is a disability that is not physical or can be seen. This small step will impact our first responders in a very big and helpful way! Please support this bill!!! Mahalo nui!!!

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:05:35 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Samonte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SUPPORT**

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:06:44 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Krystal Baba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2217.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:17:28 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rensely Alik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I have a granddaughter with Autism spectrum Disorder. She would yell, bang, and try to unbuckle if the car slows or stops for awhile. This bill will truly help the parents and grandparents who will be with the kid most of the time.

Thank you,

Rensely

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:19:10 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Renee Dacanay, and I am writing in strong support of HB2217.

As a mother of a child diagnosed autism and sensory-related needs, I know firsthand that many disabilities are not visible. In stressful situations—like traffic stops, emergencies, or interactions with authority—misunderstandings can happen quickly. A voluntary notation on a driver’s license or state ID could help create safer, more compassionate encounters for individuals with nonapparent disabilities across Hawai‘i.

This bill is a simple, respectful tool that empowers families while preserving privacy and choice. It does not force disclosure, but it gives those who need it an added layer of protection and understanding. That small option can make a life-changing difference in moments when communication is difficult and emotions are high.

Families like mine want our loved ones to be seen with patience, dignity, and care. HB2217 helps move Hawai‘i toward that goal.

Mahalo for considering this important legislation and for supporting our keiki and community members with invisible disabilities.

With gratitude,

Renee Dacanay

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:30:43 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony **in strong support of HB2217**, which would allow applicants for a driver’s permit, driver’s license, or state identification card to voluntarily request a **nonapparent disability notation** at no additional cost.

This bill matters deeply to families across Hawai‘i. Many of our loved ones live with disabilities that are not immediately visible — cognitive, developmental, neurological, psychological, or medical conditions that may affect how they communicate, respond to stress, or navigate high-pressure situations. In moments of crisis or confusion, these individuals are especially vulnerable to misunderstanding, escalation, or harm.

HB2217 provides a simple, dignified, and voluntary tool that can help prevent those moments from becoming traumatic. A notation on an ID card is not a label; it is a **protective measure** that gives first responders, law enforcement, and emergency personnel critical context so they can respond with patience, clarity, and appropriate support.

For many families, this is not theoretical. It is lived reality. Parents, caregivers, and community members carry the constant worry of how their loved ones will be treated if they cannot immediately explain their disability or if they react in ways that others misinterpret. This bill offers reassurance that our systems can meet them with understanding rather than judgment.

HB2217 is about **safety, equity, and compassion**. It aligns with our values of aloha, mālama, and kuleana — ensuring that every person in our community, especially those who are most vulnerable, is seen and protected.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha ‘āina,

J.Kēhau Lucas

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 17, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 2217, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION  
House Committee on Transportation  
Thursday, February 19, 2026  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 430  
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Kila and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2217, Relating to Identification. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I serve as Chair of the Parks & Recreation / Transportation Committee, and I offer my full support of the intent of the this bill, which will align Hawai'i with other U.S. states that have taken steps to allow a special notation on an identification card to voluntarily indicate the existence of a nonapparent disability in an effort to promote safer and more informed interactions with law enforcement. Allowing individuals to voluntarily indicate the presence of a nonapparent disability will help promote awareness, understanding, and appropriate handling and responses during interactions with law enforcement and first responders.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2217. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

FERN HOLLAND  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

RM:sf

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:58:09 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:03:49 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:17:55 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Dixon	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a parent of a child with autism that I am very hopeful will one day have a driver's license and become as independent as humanly possible, I fully support this bill HB2217 to allow applicants for a driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification card to voluntarily request a nonapparent disability notation on their identification at no additional cost. Invisible disabilities exist and those who have these challenges should have as much acknowledgement and support to be provided to them and as much as they need in order to navigate this world that is not designed for people like them. They are not always in a position to educate others on their exceptional needs and perhaps not able to communicate the same way that a neurotypical person would be able communicate in the event that law enforcement or other positions of authority would need or require them to communicate. Those who are blind, deaf or in wheelchair are able to visually alert others with thwi4 disability in most cases. However it is not always that way for those who have autism or related disorders. Therefore it would only assist both the developmentally disabled person and the person trying to communicate with them if they were informed of the disorders or limitations that may be experienced. As a parent I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this bill and as a citizen I would expect that this bill would be seriously considered and passed so everyone is safe and supported. Thank you.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:20:16 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aisha Aoki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support as long as it is clearly notated or identified on the ID card so law enforcement or other entities can clearly and quickly see this. It should also come with training of these entities (law enforcement agencies and TSA type of agencies) so they can better handle situations should any issues arise. Many agencies go with reaction versus prevention. So hopefully when they see this special ID notation they can be better prepared to work the individual.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:27:54 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leinaala Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:29:13 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith Mills-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the ability to self request a nonapparent disability notation on drivers license or state ID

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:41:45 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Ebata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice-Chair Miyake and Members of the House Committee on Transportation,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2217, Relating to Identification, which would add a discreet hologram to drivers' licenses and IDs to indicate when an individual has autism or other unseen disabilities.

We are all familiar with how interactions with law enforcement officers or first responders can quickly escalate when behaviors linked to hidden disabilities are misunderstood. A voluntary "nonapparent disability" notation on a driver's license or ID would help communicate that an individual may not respond in typical ways - they may avoid eye contact, have delayed verbal responses, show visible distress or fail to comply with shouted instructions, weven while not intending to be defiant or dangerous.

This small, discreet and voluntary addition to IDs has the potential to prevent traumatic encounters and save lives. It's a humane and thoughtful solution that balances privacy with safety for neurodivergent individuals AND enforcement and first responders or others who may interact with them. And in fact, perhaps this bill could be expanded to include those with mental health issues also - the news is rife with instances of enforcement officers dealing with such individuals, sometimes with disastrous consequences.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass HB2217; it will make Hawaii a movre understanding and inclusive place for all residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ebata

Koloa, Kauai

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:54:06 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lin Wang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I think it will protect rights of drivers with nonapparent disabilities, as well as preventing unnecessary escalation and misunderstanding between those individuals and law enforcement and first responders.

Mahalo!

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:35:52 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leslie Keating	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not all disabilities are readily apparent and those who are vulnerable often need specialized help when they are in emergency situations. This information would be valuable to first responders.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 4:21:44 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail P. Gnazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2217 being introduced in the legislaure which would allow individuals w nonapparent disability to request notations regarding disability be placed on Driver's licenses, permits and/or civil identification for their protection. I have more than 40 years experience in the development, provision and evaluation of prevention, emergency/crisis intervention, alternative and school based education, behavioral health, child welfare & family and trauma based treatment with children, families and indivduals in Hawaii. Our stake holders included families, children, youth, advisory groups, the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Division, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division, Child Welare, Judiciary/Family Court, Department of Education, Office of Youth Services, Counties of Maui & Kauai, SAMSHA, F&CS. This provision will protect and prevent escalation of fear & trauma leading to unneccary negative consequences. Mahalo nui loa.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:00:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Antoine Khalil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think this is a great measure that would protect people with disabilities and also aid police in how they approach them. This would liekl be much easier to train into officers than expecting them to figure it out on their own.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:48:00 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ron miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support bill 2217 to help individuals and families with special needs. Thank you!

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:17:40 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2217 because it will allow applicants for driver's permits, driver's licenses, or civil identification cards to request a nonapparent disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card.

This is important because it effects families across Hawaii and how they can help protect their loved ones during moments of vulnerability.

Thank you for supporting this bill and this act of kindness for the more vulnerable in our community.

Aloha,

Beth Anderson

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:09:58 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pamela anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2217.

mahalo!

Pamela Anderson

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:50:27 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee,

I ask that you support this bill to help our disabled family and friends and our police and first responders in their interactions with one another.

Thank you,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

Written Testimony for:

HB 2217

Relating to Identification

Aloha,

My name is Ann Marie K. Wooton and I am in support of House Bill #2217. I am in support of allowing individuals with nonapparent disabilities to have a notation on their drivers permit, drivers license or civil identification card.

I believe this will be helpful to 1<sup>st</sup> responders who may have contact with someone that has a nonapparent disability (autism, spectrum disorder). I believe that sometimes individuals with nonapparent disabilities are seen as being non-compliant when given directives by maybe law enforcement? If it is known by the law enforcement officer or other first responders it will allow for a smoother interaction with less mis-understandings and possible escalation that could lead to arrests etc.

Mahalo to Rep. Darius K. Kila, Chair & Rep Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair and the rest of the Committee on Transportation for allowing my written testimony.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:58:40 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debbie Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been advocating for a program like this via our annual SPIN conference and other advocacy groups for several years. Approximately one-third to one-half of individuals killed by the police are disabled, and disabled individuals comprise the majority of high-profile use-of-force cases, according to the Police Brutality Center (<https://policebrutalitycenter.org/interacting-with-police-if-you-have-a-disability/>). According to [Autism Speaks](#), disabled individuals are seven times more likely than others to interact with police, and 53 percent of autistic adults in a 2019 study reported having had four or more interactions with police in their lifetime. The privacy of an ID is better compared to putting notification on a vehicle, which might contribute to victimization. In our glove compartment, we carry Maryland's voluntary Disclosure (Blue) Card from <https://mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/Pages/Persons-With-Disabilities.aspx>. Since 2019, Texas has had an excellent model program, [TexasDrivingwithDisability.com](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/texas-driving-with-disability): <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/texas-driving-with-disability>. We support this measure wholeheartedly to make Hawaii a safer place.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 5:58:35 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealani Makaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Relating to Voluntary Nonapparent Disability Notation on Identification

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Kealani Makaiwi, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB2217, which would allow applicants for a driver’s permit, driver’s license, or civil identification card to voluntarily request a nonapparent disability notation at no additional cost.

This proposal was inspired by a Kaua‘i mother, Sarah Wooton of Kīlauea, whose son was recently diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Like many individuals with high-functioning autism and other nonapparent disabilities, his condition may not be immediately visible—yet in moments of stress, such as a traffic stop or emergency, misunderstandings can escalate quickly and unnecessarily.

HB2217 offers a simple, voluntary, and compassionate solution that can help prevent those situations. A discreet notation gives first responders and law enforcement an important context cue, encouraging patience, clearer communication, and de-escalation when it matters most. This is not about labeling—it is about safety, dignity, and understanding.

As a mother and educator, I think deeply about how systems can better protect our children and families. Many keiki and adults live with nonapparent disabilities, including autism, anxiety disorders, PTSD, sensory processing differences, and other neurological or developmental conditions. They deserve to move through our communities without fear that a moment of stress could lead to harm because their needs were misunderstood.

HB2217 respects personal choice by making the notation entirely voluntary and accessible at no cost. It empowers individuals and families with an option that may provide peace of mind and promote safer, more compassionate interactions across [Hawai'i](#).

I also wish to acknowledge the leadership of [Nadine K. Nakamura](#) and Representatives [Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy](#), [Darius K. Kila](#), [Tyson Miyake](#), and [Gregg Takayama](#) for introducing this thoughtful and humane measure.

HB2217 is a small policy change with the potential for a profound impact. I respectfully urge you to support and pass HB2217 to help ensure safer, more understanding interactions for individuals with nonapparent disabilities and their families.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and commitment to the well-being of our communities.

Respectfully,

Kealani Makaiwi

Mother & Educator

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 6:54:12 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Aasand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill would benefit not only the individual with hidden disability, but others around them, as well as if ever an issue, the police as well or in any incidence where they could show their driverse license or id card to bring awareness so meone would understand. This is important.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:48:16 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hendrix Wooton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm nine. I have high functioning autism and I get constantly misunderstood because of that. I'd like if people could have a better understanding of me. Especially since this is voluntary so you don't have to if you don't want to. It also comes with educating people on how to respond to someone like me so they can help them instead of escalate things and make it harder. People should see them as a different person they should respect and be nice to and be kinder to them.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:52:22 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge your support of this bill.

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:16:27 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Imani Hamilton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many people with hidden disabilities that make their life more difficult everyday. If we can make it just a bit better by adding these disabilities notions then it'll be a safer ride for us, them, and everyone else around.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Rep. Darius K. Kila, Chair

Rep. Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 430 and Via Videoconference

State Capitol

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2217, RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION.**

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **strong support of HB 2217**, Relating to Identification, which allows applicants for driver's permit, driver's license, or civil identification cards to request a nonapparent disability notation on their permit, license, or identification card.

I have nonapparent congenital physical and neurological disabilities. I am also the parent of young adult children who also have nonapparent disabilities, including one who is both hard-of-hearing and is neuroatypical. I have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a genetic connective tissue disorder with a wide variety of symptoms impacting essentially every body system. There are a variety of types of EDS, and for many of us, our disability is nonapparent. I was not diagnosed with my disability until my forties, when my oldest child, who had more medically-obvious symptoms, was diagnosed. For myself, I feel that a nonapparent disability notation on my identification would be beneficial in helping ensure I get appropriate care in an emergency situation where time and information would be of the essence. I think having the notation would also be helpful in situations where people may be inclined to withhold necessary accommodations in situations where they would be beneficial or necessary.

When I think of my hard-of-hearing and neuroatypical child, I can see how a nonapparent disability notation could facilitate interactions with law enforcement in ways that would be de-escalating. Since she is hard-of-hearing, not deaf, she is sometimes not responsive to questions from others due to lack of hearing, which can be perceived by those unaware of her disability as indifference, nonresponsiveness, rudeness, confusion or altered state, etc. This could potentially cause a situation to escalate, a situation that the identification notation could help prevent.

I think that HB 2217 provides a simple, low-cost, and effective means to facilitate how people with nonapparent disabilities can interact with law enforcement, state and local agencies, and helps raise awareness and inclusion. I respectfully **request your support of HB 2217**.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD

Wailuku, Maui

**HB-2217**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 2:34:47 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sasha Fernandes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i Legislators and Community members,

I am writing this testimony to strongly support HB2217 to allow applicants for a identification card (such as a driver's permit, driver's license, or state identification card) to voluntarily request a non-apparent disability notation on their ID card

As a physician in pediatrics and an advocate for community health, I fully support protecting the rights of people living with disabilities. Please join the legislators, legislative aides, and community members who are working to protect our community members living with disabilities by voting Yes to support HB2217.

People with non-apparent (invisible) disabilities (such as autism spectrum, learning differences/disabilities, social anxiety, vision problems, hearing loss, etc) face many hardships and are more at risk of being misunderstood when interacting with police or others. When police, security guards, & TSA workers have more training on improving communication and protection for people with non-apparent (invisible) disabilities then situations can be de-escalated. So it is important to give people with disabilities the choice to voluntarily place a notification on their ID card that they have a non-apparent disability.

I also urge legislators to provide more funding for services & protection for people with disabilities.

Mahalo nui,

Sasha Fernandes, M.D.