



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

### **Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary**

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy San Buenaventua, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

Sidney Nakamoto

Probation Administrator, First Circuit

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 845, House Draft 1, Relating to Identification.

**Purpose:** 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 into society. (HB845 HD1)

#### **Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of this bill since it addresses a significant challenge when an inmate is released from prison without identification. Without proper identification, an individual is faced with many obstacles when trying to transition back into the community. It affects not only inmates who are released from prison, but also offenders released from jail back in to the community without identification.

The effects on probation clients who are released from jail without proper identification include delays in important services such as medical care, substance abuse treatment, housing, and employment. For these probation clients, services are delayed months until they are able to get an identification card, and many probationers end up homeless due to lack of identification.

All offenders who are close to completing their sentences would benefit from assistance through the Department of Public Services to obtain a civil identification card prior to their release from jail or prison, as proposed in House Bill 845, House Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.