



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

And

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:50 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

Sidney Nakamoto

Probation Administrator, First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 845, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Identification.

Purpose: Requires the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with county and state agencies, and, upon request of the inmates, to issue civil identification cards to inmates and to assist inmates in obtaining the inmates' birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification necessary for successful reentry into society. Requires the Department of Public Safety to initiate the process of assisting inmates released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement programs at least ninety days prior to the inmates' release. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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.



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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 2, Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.