



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 25, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: HB 2162 HD1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION

Hearing: Thursday, February 25, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it addresses an identified barrier that negatively impacts the ability of many homeless individuals to access housing. However, the Coordinator's support of this measure is limited to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services in regards to specific issues related to implementation of the proposed service. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, the Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office (HPO) is responsible for the administration and implementation of homeless programs.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to HPO for services to obtain government issued identification.

There are a variety of factors that contribute to the difficulty homeless individuals face in attempting to obtain government issued photo identification. According to service providers, many homeless individuals lack the supporting documents necessary to verify their identity, such as a Social Security Card or Birth Certificate. In addition, service providers report that many homeless individuals lacking photo identification require

supporting documents from out-of-state or country, and each state or government entity has its own process or fee schedule to obtain a Birth Certificate or other identifying documents.

The Coordinator notes that the Governor's Executive Budget request includes \$2 million to expand homeless outreach services statewide, and asks for the Legislature's to fully fund this request. Homeless outreach providers offer a wide range of services to unsheltered homeless individuals, including assistance in obtaining identification and other necessary documents. The additional funding requested for homeless outreach, including civil legal services when necessary, would increase the capacity to provide support in obtaining identification, as well as assistance with housing search and the completion of applications for housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 25, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2162 HD1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 25, 2016; 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, and requests the Legislature appropriate the entire \$2 million requested in the Executive Budget to include assistance with obtaining government identification in homeless outreach services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Homeless Programs Office for services to help individuals experiencing homelessness obtain government issued identification (ID).

The working group created by Act 243 (2015) learned that with the passage of the federal REAL ID ACT, Pub. L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302 (2005), obtaining and maintaining REAL ID compliant ID requires individuals to possess and maintain their vital records to establish one's identity and principal address. Community legal services providers that assist homeless individuals with obtaining government issued ID reported to the Act 243 working group that individuals have difficulty obtaining certified copies of vital records that establish their identity because they lack the financial means to pay requisite fees and individuals require assistance, including civil legal services, to navigate multiple government, most often out-of-state and foreign country, records

systems. There is currently limited private funding available for document fees and there are often periods of delay to wait for funds to become available to pay for document fees.

The Social Security Administration identifies assisting disabled homeless individuals secure government ID as a key strategy to assist homeless applicants for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits, see

https://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness/docs/Final_Key-Strategies-for-Connecting-People-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf.

DHS asks the committee to support the entire Executive Budget request of \$2 million to enhance homeless outreach efforts. At the time the budget request was prepared, the Act 243 working group had not issued recommendations, and cost and fees for this added outreach service to assist with government ID were not included in the budget request. It is important for homeless outreach service providers to have adequate resources to provide outreach services, including the resources to assist homeless individuals to pay for replacement documents and obtain government issued ID; DHS requires the entire \$2 million request identified in the Executive to procure the array of outreach services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Muhammad Talha Quadri
2437 Parker Place
mquadri@hawaii.edu

2/23/2016

To: Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto
And members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: HB2162, Relating to Government Issued Identification – SUPPORT

Hearing Date and Time: February 25, 2016
Hearing Room: House conference room 308

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, I am testifying in strong support of HB 2162

Good morning, my name is Muhammad Quadri. I am a student at University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and a student intern at the Institute for Human Services. I would like to express my support for House Bill 2162 Relating to Government Issued Identification. The bill would appropriate funds to the department of human services in order to develop or expand homeless services, including assistance and public outreach for individuals to obtain and maintain government issued identification.

Legal identification is a necessary part of modern life. It is required for both government and private services. Many of these services are used by Hawaii's homeless and impoverished, yet acquiring legal identification is especially difficult for these individuals. I've seen this firsthand at HIS, where some clients have a hard time obtaining certain services due to not having identification. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, roughly half of the respondents in a study they conducted were denied services like TANF, food stamps, SSI, etc. when they did not have valid government ID. The NLCHP also said that many clients that attempted to obtain an ID were told that they needed a birth certificate. However, when they applied for a birth certificate, they were told they

needed a photo ID, thus placing them in a catch-22. Many homeless individuals are also unable to obtain ID because in 26 states, including Hawaii, proof of principal address is required to apply for state ID, but homeless people by definition are unable to do this due to lack of stable housing. The NLCHP's survey also found that about 36% of respondents said they did not obtain ID because they could not afford the price.

Besides obtaining identification, maintaining identification is also a big issue for homeless people. Homeless people are more likely have their IDs stolen or lost and many times they most or all of their papers in homeless sweeps when their possessions are thrown away. Hawaii has the highest rate of homeless per capita, which is why I believe this bill is especially relevant and why I strongly support it, as it would benefit both the homeless population and people like me who work to serve them.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Muhammad Quadri