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GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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No. _____

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

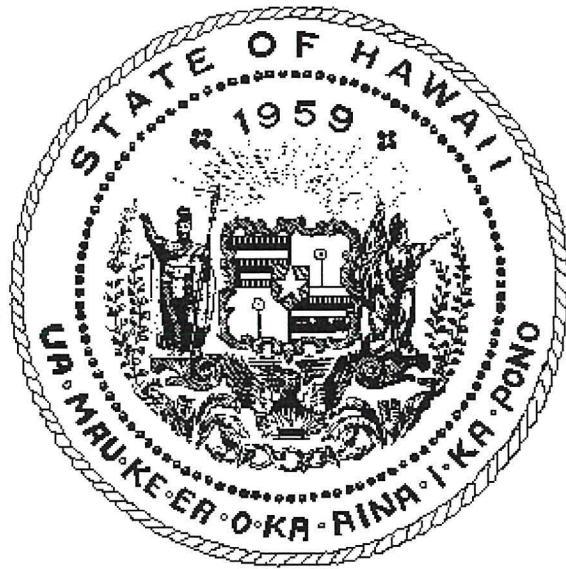
For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the **Reentry Coordination Office Annual Report on Civil Identification Documents**, as required by Act 56, Section 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: [https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Reentry Coordination Office Annual Report on Civil Identification Documents.pdf](https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Reentry_Coordination_Office_Annual_Report_on_Civil_Identification_Documents.pdf).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Otani".

Max N. Otani
Director

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REPORT TO THE 2021 LEGISLATURE**

**REENTRY COORDINATION OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT ON
CIVIL IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

December 2020

OVERVIEW

Act 56, Section 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (§353J-32, HRS – Offender Reentry; Identification Documents) requires the Department of Public Safety (PSD), in collaboration with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Examiner of Drivers in each county, to inform inmates that departmental assistance is available to obtain civil identification cards. In addition, the statute requires PSD, in collaboration with appropriate federal, state, and county agencies, to inform inmates of the availability of departmental assistance to obtain the inmates' birth certificates, social security card, and any other relevant identification documents necessary to ease inmates' transition into the workforce, access to social services and housing, and upon request, provide this assistance to inmates with one year or less before their parole or release date.

Further, PSD is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty (20) days prior to the convening of each regular session to include:

- a) The number of inmates released from prison with, and without civil identification cards, birth certificates, Social Security cards, and any other relevant identification documents necessary for their transition into the workforce, access social services, and secure housing;
- b) The identification of impediments encountered in assisting inmates in obtaining their documents and civil identification cards; and
- c) Any recommendations, proposed legislation, and other relevant information deemed appropriate by the Director of PSD.

REPORT DETAILS

The following tables show the number of sentenced felons, prison and jail, who were released from custody statewide, **between November 30, 2019 and September 30, 2020**, with and without the three (3) main types of civil identification documents – birth certificates, state identification cards, and Social Security cards:

PRISON

ID CARD		BIRTH CERTIFICATE		SOCIAL SECURITY CARD	
With	Without	With	Without	With	Without
403	432	591	262	430	408

JAIL

ID CARD		BIRTH CERTIFICATE		SOCIAL SECURITY CARD	
With	Without	With	Without	With	Without
245	246	258	222	245	226

The highlighted figures in the tables show the number of jail inmates leaving PSD facilities with birth certificates as nearly equal to the number leaving without birth certificates, while the number of prison inmates leaving our facilities with birth certificates is more than double the number of prison inmates leaving without. PSD believes the disparity in the numbers of birth certificates issued for prison inmates versus jail inmates may be related to the length of time of incarceration. The shorter-term jail inmates, incarcerated for less than one year, most often already possess at least one form of civil identification and do not need nor request the assistance of the Department in securing civil identification.

IMPEDIMENTS

Time Allocation for the Process

As the Department has concentrated greater efforts on assisting exiting inmates with securing civil identification as directed by Act 56, SLH 2017, the first impediment encountered was the need to allow more time for the process, including, 1) assessing each inmate's residence status and ID needs, including whether a new or duplicate is needed ; 2) ascertaining whether the inmate wants PSD's assistance; 3) completing the necessary application(s), which is often a multi-stage process (usually starting with procurement of a birth certificate, then a State ID or Hawaii Driver's License, then lastly a Social Security Card); and 4) following up on fulfillment. Basically, the requirement of one year to begin the process is too short.

To address the need for an increased time allocation, PSD has instituted the process of completing a Reentry Checklist for each incoming inmate as part of the Reception Assessment Diagnostic (RAD) process. The Checklist readily shows the inmate's legal residence status (Hawaii, other U.S. state, Disability recipient, Greencard holder, Foreign National, etc.) as well as, which Civil ID documents the inmate needs. Upon the request of the inmate, the application process can begin soon thereafter.

Institutional Barriers

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) delegated the issuance of Hawaii Driver's Licenses and State ID cards to the City and County of Honolulu's Drivers of Motor Vehicles, Licensing and Permits section (DMVLP) some years ago, but maintains oversight over the program, as required by statute. Because driver's licenses and State ID cards are issued in person, PSD had to develop a process to enable incarcerated offenders to apply for and receive these essential documents. Because it would be too difficult and costly to bring inmates under guard to processing offices, PSD determined that it would make the most sense to set up an in-house processing center at one of our correctional facilities. It took some time to develop the necessary Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) containing the important safety and security assurances with both the DOT and DMVLP.

The Department is pleased to report that the MOA with the DOT has now been signed, and efforts are presently underway to gain the DMVLP's approval of its MOA. Simultaneously, PSD initiated the procurement process for the specialized equipment and material supplies required by DMVLP to enable DMVLP to issue duplicate State IDs and Hawaii Driver's Licenses while the offender is still incarcerated.

Requirements of Other Jurisdictions

The Department has researched and attempted to negotiate with the Federal government in the effort to obtain duplicate Social Security Cards and REAL IDs for exiting inmates and learned that the Federal agencies, at this time, are not negotiating any new Enumeration Prison MOUs, since the process entails conducting an, "in-person" audit. PSD, therefore, does what it can, by assisting inmates to complete an application, which the inmate can submit once he or she reenters the community, i.e., is furloughed, paroled, or released after serving his or her term.

Other states and Foreign jurisdictions, likewise, may have certain restrictions, which preclude the issuance of the needed ID while the inmate is incarcerated. In these cases, the Department follows a similar practice as with the Federal Social Security Card or REAL ID.

Project Costs

Costs for reimbursing the Department of Health (DOH), payments to other states' Records offices, and Territories or Foreign Governments for the issuance of duplicate birth certificates; for procurement of State ID and Hawaii Driver's License issuance equipment and supplies; and for Information system and application materials and supplies for the Reentry Office's Civil Identification efforts would have been impediments to obtaining Civil Identification documents for exiting inmates had not the Legislature appropriated the funds to support this program. In the future, however, as the program grows, additional funding may be required.

Coronavirus Pandemic

Last year's COVID-19 outbreak necessitated PSD's decision to suspend all furlough programs indefinitely beginning in March 2020. It was, and continues to be, critical for the Department to maintain the safety and security of inmates, staff, and the community, however, as a result of the pandemic, offenders lost employment opportunities, and efforts to obtain duplicate State IDs and Hawaii Driver's Licenses have been delayed.

CONCLUSION

The Department respectfully suggests that the numbers reported to the Legislature can be made more relevant by reporting the number of requests/applications compared with the actual number of requests/applications fulfilled for each category of civil identification. Accordingly, PSD will begin providing more detailed information in its 2022 Report to the Legislature.