

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2007

RE: S.B. No. 672

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred S.B. No. 672 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INMATE REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to expand reintegration programs for offenders exiting state correctional facilities and reduce the rate of recidivism.

Specifically, this measure appropriates funds for a grant to the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., for the development and maintenance of community-based reintegration programs.

The Department of Public Safety, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a Maui County Council member, Community Alliance on Prisons, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., TJ Mahoney & Associates Ka Hale Ho'ala Hou No Na Wahine, and eleven individuals submitted testimony in support of this measure.

Your Committee finds that the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., BEST (Being Empowered and Safe Together) is a nationally recognized project that has dramatically and effectively reduced the recidivism rate of the offenders who successfully complete the program. While the statewide recidivism rate is around eighty per cent, the recidivism rate for BEST Program participants was only fifteen per cent over the last two years. The BEST program involves the offenders' families, community, and the cultural values of Native Hawaiians in providing a seamless continuum of



care, training, and treatment. The incorporation of Native Hawaiian cultural components has proved effective in healing and building the self-esteem of offenders, which has significantly contributed to the offender's successful reentry into the community.

Your Committee further finds that additional benefits to successful reintegration programs are reduced costs of incarceration and a general increase in public safety.

Your Committee further finds that an appropriation for a grant to fund the continuation and expansion of the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., BEST Program is a wise investment of state resources.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 672 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,




WILL ESPERO, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety
PBS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 672	Committee Referral: PBS, WAM	Date: 2/6/07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
ESPERO, Will (C)	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman				✓
WHALEN, Paul	✓			
TOTAL	3			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes