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February 7, 2008

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, vice chair

Thursday February 7, 2008

8:45 am

Room 309

SUPPORT – HB2945

Relating to Prisons

My name is Andy Botts, author of *Nightmare In Bangkok*. My story reveals an unusual insight into the cycle of crime, drug addiction, and the justice system in Hawaii. I support this bill, and any other ideas that are productive. However, Section 2 suggests that the policy of program participation is mandated. Unless there are incentives in place, requiring an inmate, who doesn't want to change, to participate in a program because they have to, could be disruptive to those who want to participate.

A model program now in place is the RDAP program that The Bureau of Prisons has in place. To participate in RDAP (Residential Drug and Alcohol Program), inmates are screened beforehand, and only those who are sincere are admitted. This approach benefits those who want to change, while allocating precious funds for the maximum benefit.

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GOVERNOR



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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2945
RELATING TO PRISONS
by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair

Thursday February 7, 2008; 8:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Evans and Members of the Committee:

The department of public safety supports the intent of House Bill 2945, which seeks to increase the use of a programs approach to inmate case management and development of more work opportunities for inmates both, in the facilities and out in the community.

In order to comply with this measure for an increase for inmate work lines in the facilities, department would require additional resources such as staff and equipment. This would also cause an increase in operational and administrative costs associated with the expansion, which will impact the priorities of the Executive Supplemental Budget. The department is currently conducting an internal review to determine the feasibility and possibility of further increasing in facility work line opportunities for those incarcerated.

In addition, in an effort to increase community partnerships and to substantially increase the Correctional Industries (CI) work opportunities for inmates, we respectfully request your support for HB 1402 and SB 1488, which seeks to eliminate

the 45 staff person cap currently restricting CI's ability to grow and provide additional work opportunities, experience, and growth to our inmate population both in our facilities and the community.

Various studies have shown that vocational training and work opportunities provided to those incarcerated have an overall positive affect on reducing recidivism and can assist offenders with reuniting with the families and become contributing law abiding members of society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

February 7, 2008

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To: Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: HB2945 Relating to Prisons
Hearing: February 7, 2008, 8:45 a.m., Room 309

Position: Support with amendment

Good morning Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii supports increasing worklines at our correctional facilities and in the community, but suggests caution in mandating all inmates to participate in in-facility programs.

Aside from the questionable legality of mandating participation, this requirement may unwittingly become another method that allows officials to extend sentences of offenders by writing up a violation.

We also ask that you somehow ensure that women have the same opportunity on their worklines, both in the community and in-facilities as the men do. Men often have workline jobs that pay more or are higher paying jobs when they are released into the community (e.g. construction, computer repair).

We support programs that prepare offenders for reentry into the community. We are hopeful that the department will provide meaningful job training so that they will have employment opportunities that will help them support their families upon their release.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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