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**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2344
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

by

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety
Senator Will Espero, Chair

Tuesday, January 29, 2008; 2:45PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Senator Espero, Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) does not support Senate Bill 2344. The bill requires PSD to submit monthly comprehensive reports related to Act 8, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, also known as the Community Safety Act of 2007.

Currently, Act 8 and Act 213 of SLH 2007 already requires the Department to submit several reports to the Legislature in 2008 and 2009 relating to the performance indicators of some PSD programs. These reports include performance indicators on inmate transition and reentry into the community; the inmate apprenticeship program; inmate transitional work furlough and substance abuse treatment services; and the inmate job development program. The reporting requirements of ACT 8 are in addition to the various reports the Department already provides to the legislature.

Moreover, in order to ensure that information in the reports are complete, accurate, and provided on a timely basis, the Department requires time to establish

definitions and measures; develop and test data collection and reporting procedures; and train staff on proper procedures.

In addition, the requirement for providing comprehensive reports each month will create a substantial increase in the workload, which cannot be absorbed by the current staff. The current staff's ever increasing workload is already burdensome and is compounded by the fact that the Department must prioritize the use of available resources. From staff, to database capacity, to computers, PSD must first and foremost use these resources to ensure the safety of the public and fulfill responsibilities to inmates in its care. Further, it should also be noted that any marked changes in performance indicators are gradual, and do not take place on a monthly basis, but rather over a more extended period of time. As a result, this monthly comprehensive reporting requirement will only unnecessarily increase workload.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

2:45 PM

Room 225

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 2344 - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on prison reform and criminal justice issues in Hawai'i for a decade. I respectfully offer our testimony being mindful that Hawai'i has more than 6,000 people behind bars and more than 2,000 who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their homes and their loved ones.

SB 2344 requires the department of public safety to establish performance indicators to ensure that the department is in compliance with the Community Safety Act of 2007. Requires monthly reports to the legislature, using key performance indicators, such as inmate drug test failure rates, educational goals achieved, reentry plans, post-incarceration employment, victim restitution paid, and recidivism rates.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this legislation. Although reporting appears onerous at first - this is actually a good way for the department of public safety to keep track of what is going on. It will clearly show how we're doing, what's working, and what's not working. Do we need to focus more of our resources in one specific area? What area would benefit the most people in the long run? Good management has a system of checks and balances and that is what we believe is the intent of this bill. Every plan needs to be adjusted along the way - this legislation acknowledges that and establishes a system of indicators to keep things moving in the right direction.

Performance indicators are used by businesses mindful of their bottom line. These performance indicators will assist the department in achieving the desired policy outcome as stated in Act 8, i.e. the rehabilitation and successful reentry to the community of formerly incarcerated people.

When you, the Legislature, see the numbers and the outcomes resulting from the policies you have enacted, you will have a better idea of where to target our resources most effectively. An open and transparent system benefits everyone.

We therefore urge you to pass SB 2344. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

2:45 PM Room 225

SUPPORT FOR SB 2344 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY. PBS

My name is Ka`iana Haili I am an instructor at Hawai`i Community College and have worked in several fields of rehabilitation for nearly twenty years. I am the director of Ke Kahua Pa`a providing rehabilitation programs with cultural and spiritual based curriculum and facilitators. I work with Nā Maka Hāloa 501c3 non profit organization that obtains grants and funding for these programs. In addition, we work with numerous individuals and organizations implementing these programs in Hawai`i and mainland facilities.

We strongly support bill SB 2344 in compliance with the Community Safety Act of 2007 as this bill establishes performance indicators to track the progress the department of public safety is making in helping people rebuild their lives and restore their families in preparing individuals to reenter our community.

The DPS annual report lists program activities and statistics, it does not include information on program outcomes. The legislature finds that performance indicators are an effective way to track the progress of the comprehensive reentry system and to reflect the philosophical change to the department's approach to rehabilitation and reentry mandated by Act 8. It is imperative that the monthly reports be publicly available on the internet.

Key performance indicators that would be used:

The number of individuals entered in to and those actually achieving educational goals

The various reentry plans with described goals and outcomes

The successful reentry and employment rate

The number of individuals for whom a reentry plan is filed

The number of drug test failures; how and where drugs were obtained

The means of victim restitution

The recidivism rate

As an instructor in public education and the private sector we are accountable for private, state and federal grants, our performance indicators are essential and indicative of the outcomes and eventual effectiveness, we all need to be held accountable for our kuleana [privileges and responsibilities].

Mahalo for attendance to your kuleana

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair: Sen. Will Espero

Vice Chair: Sen. Clarence Nishirara

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

2:45 PM

Room 225

Bill # SB 2344

Position: Strong Support

Hello Chair Espero , Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee

My name is Cathy Tilley and I am a member of the Community Alliance on Prisons and my son is an inmate at Saguaro Correctional Facility in Arizona.

I am strongly in support of SB2344 which requires the Department of Public Safety give monthly reports to the legislature using performance indicators to show that they are complying with the Community Safety Act of 2007.

As citizens we all know and talk about how important reentry programs are and this bill will make the Department of Public Safety account for programs and their progress and effectiveness. The department has change it ideas about reentry programs and rehabilitation and these monthly reports will prove or disprove their progress

Sincerely,
Cathy Tilley
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