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STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

CLAYTON A. FRANK  
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING  
Deputy Director  
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2344 SD1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2008, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309

Representative Evans, Representative Har, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (Department) does not support Senate Bill 2344 SD1, which requires the Department to submit quarterly 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 Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, already requires the Department to submit several reports to the 2008 and 2009 Legislature related to the performance indicators on some of its 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 approximately twenty-four other various reports the Department already provides the legislature. Further, it should also be noted that any marked changes in performance indicators are gradual and take place over an extended period of time, and a quarterly report will not provide the necessary time to reflect performance trends.

In addition, the requirement for providing comprehensive reports each quarter will create a substantial increase in the workload, which **cannot** be absorbed by the current staff. Moreover, the Department does not have adequate database capacity, or computers for this specific purpose. In order to comply with the proposed quarterly reporting requirement, an additional full time staff position would be required along with funding for additional office equipment, which would impact the priorities of the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Finally, to ensure the 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 conduct recruitment efforts to fill the new position that will be required. We also require the time necessary to train that staff member.

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



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Legislative Testimony

**SB 2344, SD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**  
Senate Committee on Human Services & Housing

Date: March 13, 2008  
Room: 309

Time: 8:30am

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs strongly supports SB 2344, SD 1 to establish performance indicators to ensure compliance with the Community Safety Act of 2007. Native Hawaiians account for 39% of the total prison population, yet, they only make up 9.4% of the Hawaii state population.

There are less than a handful of programs that are impressive with the reduction of recidivism, and successful community re-integration such as the Alu Like Adult Correctional Program, TJ Mahoney, and the Maui BEST Program. Information linked to program outcomes is vital in replicating additional services in programs that work, and improve existing programs that are not working.

With Native Hawaiian offenders, data for re-entry programs show that the offenders respond well with cultural programs that include water and land based activities incorporated with cultural values, beliefs and practices. Other successful program elements include employment, and educational opportunities.

The SB 2344, SD 1 will greatly help in providing information on reducing recidivism rates and address the overcrowding prison issues.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony.



the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
of hawaii

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March 13, 2008

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

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta  
Executive Director

Re: SB2344 SD1 Relating to Public Safety  
Hearing: March 13, 2008, 8:30 a.m., Room 309

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii supports this measure. Quarterly reports on performance indicators will provide a basis to evaluate the progress of the Department of Public Safety in preparing individuals to reenter the community. It is also important to know whether the department is in compliance with the Community Safety Act of 2007.

As stated in the bill, the annual report of the department does not provide information on program outcomes. Performance indicators will assist in evaluating the efficacy of programs and will also assist in keeping the relevant agencies accountable for their performance.

It is important that programs are not only implemented, but that they are shown to be effective. Tracking these indicators will help ensure that the Department uses public funds on programs that actually work to achieve desired goals and objectives.

Please vote to approve this measure.

P.O. Box 61233  
Honolulu, HI 96839

Phone: (808)-988-4386  
Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: [info@dpfhi.org](mailto:info@dpfhi.org)  
Website: [www.dpfhi.org](http://www.dpfhi.org)

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
Phone/E-mail: (808) 533-3454/communityallianceonprisons@hotmail.com



## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2008

8:30 AM

Room 309

### **STRONG SUPPORT - SB 2344 SD1 – PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har 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 SD1 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 quarterly 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 SD1. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2008

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

SUPPORT - SB 2344, SD1

Relating to Public Safety

My name is Andy Botts, author of Nightmare In Bangkok. Part of my story reveals my experience with the Hawaii justice system. Through my experience, I know that the Dept of Public Safety has not been living up to the expectations required of them. This bill ensures that they comply with the re-entry bill, similar to the OCCC Master Plan developed in 1972, which was never implemented. I strongly support holding all government agencies accountable, and this bill merely ensures compliance of the basics that the taxpayers expect.

Aloha, Andy Botts

Poi Dog Publishers

1920 Ala Moana Blvd. #1104

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

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