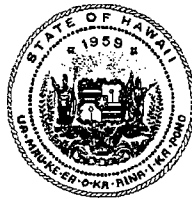


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
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Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 125
AND SENATE RESOLUTION 64
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TO ESTABLISH AN EARNED-TIME PROGRAM THAT
REDUCES THE MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME THAT
INMATES MUST WAIT TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE

by

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 20, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Senator Espero, Senator Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) questions the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 125 and Senate Resolution (SR) 64 because of the overall effect it would have on the entire criminal justice system if implemented. First, parole is a discretionary function, and even if an earned-time credit system were implemented, there is nothing in either statute or regulation that would prevent the Hawaii Paroling Authority from simply adjusting the length of time for the minimum terms set back to the general length of time that is currently set. This would seem to negate the purported basis for the implementation of the system. Second, developing and implementing an earned-time credit system would definitely affect the maximum term release date, generally making the

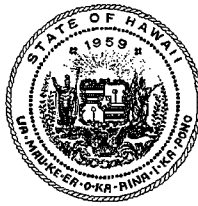
maximum term release date much earlier in most cases. However, the impact of implementing a system such as this would require the inmate disciplinary system to be completely reworked because every time an inmate was found guilty of violating a disciplinary rule, earned-time credit could be taken as a sanction. Therefore, the sentence computation would have to be recomputed for every disciplinary hearing where earned-time was forfeited, and/or every time an appeal was granted to reinstate earned-time. The sentence computation would also have to be computed to add credit time and reduce the maximum term release date every time earned-time was credited, either on a monthly or annual basis. The overall effect of this system on a population of over 6,000 inmates would be that at least 20 to 30 additional staff would be required to accurately maintain this type of system.

Regardless of whether the needed staff positions were added to the system, it is clear from the history of other systems with good time credits that the sentence computation and good time credits are a major issue for litigation between inmates and the system. Thus, implementing an earned-time credit system would increase the amount of inmate litigation and place PSD in a position of greater liability.

PSD does not support SCR 125 and SR 64 which requires it to develop a system that will complicate existing processes such as inmate discipline and sentence computation, without achieving the purported goal for developing the system. Further, PSD opposes SCR 125 and SR 64 since the proposed system will require many more new positions to implement and place PSD in a position of greater liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 125 and SR 64.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

ALBERT TUFONO
CHAIR

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MEMBER

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A/ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 125
RELATING TO EARNED-TIME PROGRAM**

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Albert Tufono, Chairman

Committee on Public Safety
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 20, 2008; 2:45 P.M.
State Capital, Conference Room 225

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

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 125, requesting the Department of Public Safety (Department) to establish an earned-time program that reduces the minimum period of time that inmates must wait to become eligible for parole.

Current research in evidence based practices have revealed that the use of positive reinforcement is a key principle in changing behavior. In addition to behavior change, positive reinforcement allows for intrinsic change that is believed to be a change from within and may have a longer positive effect than change through extrinsic pressure.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 125 would give the legislature an opportunity to examine various existing programs and determine if an earned-time program would be

appropriate for our prison population in Hawaii. While it is unknown what the

Department's report will present, it is for certain that additional resources will be needed to

fulfill any earn-time credit program that would be adopted. Additional staffing and

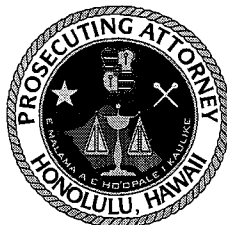
equipment would be needed, in addition to more funding for increased parole hearings and

litigation.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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PETER B. CARLISLE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

March 20, 2008

RE: S.C.R. 125
S.R. 64

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH AN EARNED TIME PROGRAM THAT REDUCES THE MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME THAT INMATES MUST WAIT TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE

Hearing: March 20, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony **in opposition to S.C.R. 125 and S.R. 64.**

The purpose of these resolutions is to request that the Department of Public Safety establish a program of earned-time credit that would reduce the minimum time that inmates must wait to become eligible for parole. Similar to our position on bills considered over the past several Legislative sessions on this subject, we oppose these resolutions because they propose a system that would both duplicate and override the current well established, and statutorily authorized, process for determining minimum sentences for felons who have been sentenced to prison terms of more than one year. In determining the minimum or reducing the minimum sentence, the Hawaii Paroling Authority utilizes written guidelines and procedures which include relevant and extensive criteria for determining minimum sentences. Typically, earned time programs focus only on the convicted

person's performance as a prisoner in a rigidly controlled environment. Lacking in this approach is consideration of the nature and extent of the inmate's criminal history and the impact of their behavior on their victims and the community. Similarly the risk that they pose to the safety of the community may far outweigh any "progress" that they have made by simply complying with the requirements of their sentence. In essence, earned time programs consider only the interests of the inmate and not that of society as a whole. The more comprehensive review process currently conducted by the Hawaii Paroling Authority holistically considers all relevant factors in a comprehensive process, not a narrowly focused progress report that documents only that an inmate is simply obeying prison rules.

For this reason, we strongly oppose Senate Concurrent Resolution 125 and Senate Resolution 64 and ask that these measures be held.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 20, 2008

2:45 PM

Room 225

STRONG SUPPORT SCR 125/SR 64 - EARNED TIME

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, always being mindful that Hawai`i has more than 6,000 people behind bars with more than 2,000 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their homes and their loved ones.

SCR 125/SR 64 requests PSD to establish an earned time program that reduces the minimum period of time that inmates must wait to become eligible for parole.

Good time/earned time was first enacted during the 19th century to control inmate behavior and relieve prison overcrowding by reducing inmates' sentences. Currently, most states use the good time/earned time credit system as an incentive for inmates to serve disciplinary-free time in prison.

The recent PEW Center on the States One in 100 report highlighted strategies used by states to manage prison admissions and population. It also focused on states successfully implementing early release from prison and early release from parole.

Page 19 of the report states, "The other key lever states can pull to tame prison growth is adjusting the length of time inmates remain behind bars. ...More commonly, states are opting to use 'earned time', or credits that shorten an inmate's term, to control prison numbers. Typically, offenders are offered such credits if they complete rehabilitation or educational programs, demonstrate good behavior or meet some other benchmark. In addition to freeing up cell space, this strategy aids wardens and correctional officers by giving inmates an incentive to behave, and helps cut reoffense rates by increasing participation in risk reducing programs.

In 2007, Texas legislators from both parties decided it was time for a course change. Rather than spend \$523 million on more prison cells, they authorized a virtual makeover of the correctional system. Anchoring their approach was a dramatic expansion of drug treatment and diversion beds, many of them in secure facilities. Legislators also approved broad changes in parole practices and expanding drug courts. In all, the reforms are expected to save Texas \$210 million

over the next two years—plus an additional \$233 million if the recidivism rate drops and the state can avoid contingency plans to build three new prisons.

“It’s always been safer politically to build the next prison, rather than to stop and see whether that’s really the smartest thing to do,” said state Sen. John Whitmire of Houston, chairman of the senate’s criminal justice committee. “But we’re at a point where I don’t think we can afford to do that anymore.”

The vast majority of states have an earned time credit program because this is a management tool. In particular Washington State, which has a model Re-entry Program, has earned time credits.

The data clearly show that incentives are what work for drug offenders, the majority of our incarcerated population. Providing an individual an incentive to work on his/her rehabilitation and reentry from day one of incarceration is crucial in helping an individual be successful transitioning from institutional to community life.

At least 40% and up to 60% of the studies of correctional treatment services reported reduced recidivism rates relative to various comparison conditions in every published review.

In addition to providing positive incentives, one of the goals of earned time eligibility programs is to reduce overcrowding "on account of good behavior and successful participation in rehabilitative activities, such as vocational, educational and substance abuse treatment programs." In its The State of Sentencing 2007 Report: Developments in Policy and Practice, the Sentencing Project applauded Nevada for expanding its earned credit / good time eligibility programs.

(Source: http://www.sentencingproject.org/Admin/Documents/publications/sl_statesentencingreport2007.pdf)

Not a single reviewer of studies of the effects of official punishment alone (custody, mandatory arrest, increased surveillance, etc.) has found consistent evidence of reduced recidivism.

Earned time is an important correctional management tool, as well as incentive for people to work towards their successful reentry into the community.

As Pearl S. Buck said, “To live with no hope is to live without bread.:

Please pass this important resolution mandating PSD to develop an earned time system.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

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March 20, 2008

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta
Executive Director

Re: SCR 125 and SR64 ESTABLISH EARNED-TIME PROGRAM
Hearing: March 20, 2008, 2:45 p.m., Room 225

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii supports resolution which would encourage the Department of Public Safety to establish an earned-time program that reduces the minimum period of time that inmates must wait to become eligible for parole.

An earned-time program would help relieve prison over-crowding by providing positive incentives for good behavior and successful participation in vocational, educational and substance abuse treatment programs.

Participation and completion of programs, especially substance abuse treatment programs help to reduce recidivism and thus help reduce prison costs. Earned-time programs can also be used to encourage non-violent offenders to transition to or be sentenced directly to community-based programs. Community-based programs are less expensive than incarceration.

The Justice Policy Institute recently released a briefing paper, "Substance Abuse Treatment and Public Safety." It found that community-based treatment programs help reduce incarceration rates, help reduce incarceration costs, and improve public safety by reducing crime; and these programs help offenders successfully transition from the criminal justice system back into the community.

Please pass this resolution so that the Department of Public Safety will be encouraged to establish earned-time programs.

CARRIE ANN SHIROTA, ESQ.
1839 Wells Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone: 808-269-3858

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Sen. Wil Espero, Chair
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Thursday, March 20, 2009
2:45pm in Conference Room 225

**SUPPORT: SCR 125 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH
AN EARNED TIME PROGRAM THAT REDUCES THE MINIMUM PERIOD OF TIME THAT
INMATES MUST WAIT TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE**

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

I am writing in strong support of SCR 125 for three simple reasons.

First, Hawai'i's prison population is bursting at the seams. Shamefully, we export the highest percentage of prisoners in the nation to out of state for profit prisons. Other states confronted with similar issues of prison overcrowding have enacted or expanded earned time credit programs as a means of reducing the prison population, without comprising public safety. Significantly, Nevada recently expanded their "good time" eligibility statute, extending the maximum number of days a sentence may be reduced for "good time" on the condition that a certain percentage of the sentence has been served. In Nevada, an individual can earn an increased number of days to be subtracted from his or her sentence for good behavior, participating in substance abuse treatment and/or completing vocational education and training.

Second, evidence based practice research demonstrates that positive incentives work. In fact, Dr. Edward Lantessa, a consultant hired by the Intermediate Council of Intermediate Sanctions who provided training in 2007 for criminal justice agency staff, including the Department of Public Safety, emphasized this principle. According to Dr. Latessa, "not a single reviewer of studies of the effects of official punishment alone (custody, mandatory arrests, increased surveillance, etc.) has found consistent evidence of reduced recidivism).

Third, I have witnessed firsthand the power of incentives and a strength based approach to transformation working for a reintegration program on Maui. The vast majority of men and women in prison want to make positive changes in their life, but have not had the training, education, role models and support to rebuild their lives and sustain those positive changes. Human beings are creatures of habit and complex, but what I know for sure is that positive incentives are far more effective than punishment alone. The attached article connecting incentives to higher education illustrates this principle in practice, and should also be implemented in Hawai'i. Please enact this resolution!

Sincerely,
Carrie Ann Shiota

**Corrections Education Program helps reduce recidivism rate in Indiana
February 15, 2007**

While about 40 percent of prison inmates in Indiana are back behind bars within three years of their release, this is not true of inmates who earn college degrees.

Through Indiana State University's Corrections Education Program, about 350 place-bound students at correctional facilities in Carlisle, Plainfield, Putnamville and Rockville, are earning their associate's or bachelor's degrees.

According to statistics from the Indiana Department of Correction's Planning & Research Division, the overall recidivism rate for Indiana in 2002 was 39.3 percent. For those offenders who received a time cut for achieving an associate's degree, however, the recidivism rate in 2002 was 18.4 percent. For those who earned a bachelor's degree, it was 18 percent.

Commissioner J. David Donahue says that ISU's Corrections Education Program is benefiting the state by helping the department of correction in its mission to return offenders to the community as law-abiding citizens.

"The educational programs and opportunities for advanced degrees provided by Indiana State University to our offenders are an important component in our campaign to reduce the recidivism rate in Indiana," Donahue said. "Offenders who participate in these ISU programs not only improve their minds and chances for employment when they are released, but their whole attitude and outlook on life is healthier."

With 50 instructors; 12 to 16 proctors; and about 120 sections, or class periods, every semester, Kathleen White, interim director of ISU's Corrections Education Program, has seen what a difference the program makes in the lives of the students.

"We see our students going from individuals who have anger issues, no self-esteem and never had success or very little success; who now are graduating with self-confidence, realizing what it takes to get along with their fellow man," White said. "In addition to picking up academic knowledge, in many cases, their educational accomplishments have helped them stay out of prison after they re-enter society."

David P. Davis, formerly of Muncie, is one of those students.

THE POET WITHIN

The first time David P. Davis wrote a poem was from a prison cell at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle at the age of 38.

The poem was an assignment for English 219, a creative writing class he was taking through ISU's Corrections Education Program. Never having written creatively before, no one was more surprised than Davis when he was told that his poem, "Ode to the Man," was selected for publication in "Tonic," the literary magazine of Arion, ISU's student writing club.

"I would have never in a million years thought that I had any type of a talent for writing. This is all news to me," Davis said. "I've always been intimidated by writing an essay or a poem. We were given the parameters and I just went ahead with it to try to fulfill the requirements of the assignment."

Davis' poetry being published in "Tonic" was not just a first for him, it was a first for the magazine as well. Davis is the only Corrections Education Program student to have a work published in "Tonic."

It was in a creative writing class taught by Mary Wright, an instructor of English and psychology in the Corrections Education Program, that Davis penned not only his first poem, but several short stories as well. Wright was impressed with the writing he produced for his assignments.

"It was a total delight to have him in class," Wright said. "I always couldn't wait to see what he was going to turn in the next week."

To affirm her students in their creative writing efforts and share their work with others, Wright compiled their best short stories and poems into a booklet, which ended up being 90 pages.

"I gave copies to each of the students in the class, put some in the facility's library, and sent a copy to the governor and the department of correction director," Wright said. "Their names weren't listed in the booklet, but they knew what was theirs. I wanted them to have something which reflected all the hard work they've done."

After looking at the booklet of writings, one of Wright's students told her, "It's good to see that what I'm writing is as good as everybody else's."

"They think they're not creative and that they don't have any talent," Wright said. "When I read their short stories and poems, I feel the pain and see the hurt. I tell them that writing is a wonderful way for them to express themselves, and realize that there is something in there that needs to come out and can, in such beautiful ways."

Several of Davis' writings were published in the booklet, including three short stories and two poems.

"Mrs. Wright encouraged us to make our writing as vivid as possible," Davis said. "I'm interested in fine arts, painting and drawing, so that may have helped me to be descriptive with my writing."

Although Davis' earliest possible release date is March 2017, he is not letting his situation stand in the way of completing his degree. He was awarded his associate's degree in 2005 through ISU's Corrections Education Program, and is in his third semester working toward his bachelor's, which he is scheduled to receive this coming December.

"In addition to keeping your mind occupied, which is definitely helpful, the college experience has been much more than that," Davis said. "You grow up with a lot of self doubt, and being able to succeed in college is kind of like an affirmation that you do have some sort of value. That's what I've gotten out of it. I feel a sense of success maybe for the first time ever really. It's exciting."

CHALLENGES FOR PLACE-BOUND EDUCATION

The degrees offered through the program are an associate's and a bachelor's in liberal studies, with a concentration in human interaction, community health and dietary management.

While a liberal studies degree is a good fit with a place-bound program, there are still many challenges instructors face.

"Videos and reading materials have to be pre-screened and approved," White said. "We don't have the availability of some of the technology that we would have on campus. We can't get on the Internet, so a computer course is probably not going to go very far, although we are working on one that uses the Intranet within the institutions. Not having access to the Internet also can make research difficult."

There are prison-based research tools such as Encarta and Incolsa, however, through which the students can receive sources related to their research topic, White says.

Laboratory courses also pose a difficulty.

"You can't take chemicals in," she said, "so we have to look at this program a little differently than we do our campus-based programs. But we do keep it as close to campus classes as we can, because some of our students do come back into a campus situation once they are released."

In the bachelor's program, which is available at the Carlisle and Putnamville facilities, courses also are taught via teleconference, where the instructor teaches from a classroom on ISU's campus, using the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System.

The majority of classes are taught face-to-face, however, in about two-hour blocks, from 4:30 to 9:30 in the evening.

"Normally our students will take between 15 and 18 credit hours per term," White said, "because we want them to graduate as quickly and economically as possible because of their financial aid or because they are self-paying."

NEW FEDERAL PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

With 18 years of successful degree programs in the corrections environment at the state level under its belt, ISU was approached by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to bring an associate's degree program to the minimum-security work camp at the Federal Correctional Institution in Terre Haute.

"The Bureau asked us to assist them with their goal of providing higher-level educational opportunities to the offender population," White said, "thus better preparing the population for the 'outside' upon release."

The university and the Bureau signed a standard memo of understanding for a two-year pilot program, and the first students were enrolled this fall.

"The pilot calls for a two-year associate of arts degree program, majoring in liberal studies with a concentration in human interaction," White said. "We began with 22 students taking courses in English, nutrition, music, criminology, art appreciation, psychology and University 101."

Classes are held during both day and evening hours in a face-to-face teaching arrangement in the education building at the camp, which holds non-violent offenders.

"Our Corrections Education Program has utilized the most experienced adjunct faculty in each of the academic disciplines to get off on the right foot," White said. "The results of the fall term do indicate that while we lost six students due to transfers, illness and conduct issues, the remaining 16 persons all did quite well."

An assessment of the pilot program is scheduled for summer 2008, and depending on the success of the program, as determined by the Bureau, ISU could be asked to take the associate of arts degree program into the regular prison population beginning that fall, White said. A bachelor of science degree program also may be introduced at that time.

PHOTO:Tonic Magazine Cover

David P. Davis' poem, "Ode to the Man," is the first work by a Corrections Education Program student to be published in "Tonic." Davis earned his associate's degree through the program in 2005, and is working on his bachelor's. (Tony Campbell/ISU)

Contact: Kathleen White, interim director Corrections Education Program, Indiana State University, (812) 237-8398 or swhite12@indstate.edu

Writer: Katie Spanuello, media relations assistant director, Indiana State University, (812) 237-3790 or kspanuello@isugw.indstate.edu

Andy Botts
Poi Dog Publishers
1920 Ala Moana Blvd. #1104
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
March 18, 2008

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 20, 2008
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225
SCR 125
Relating to Public Safety

My name is Andy Botts, author of *Nightmare In Bangkok*. I strongly support this overdue incentive. As a regular practice in most, if not all U.S. and foreign prisons, time-off for good behavior is an instrumental tool vital to alleviate overcrowding and recidivism.

Presently, the only avenue for an early release is through the reduction of minimum process. This process has proven to be a sham, as it's only been advantageous to some lifers who have committed violent crimes. Reductions are rarely given for non-violent drug offenders sentenced to terms of ten years or less - terms with minimums equal to the maximum. This fact can be proven by an audit of the Paroling Authority's records. Additionally, passage of this bill will not duplicate or eliminate the functions of the Paroling Authority, as they still have the final say in regards to parole of the individual.

In this day and age, the average recidivist is a non-violent drug addicted offender. Research shows that denial is the greatest obstacle in treating addicts and alcoholics. They're stuck in a cycle of delusion – most don't think that they have a problem. The objective to this widely used practice is to give the individual hope, using this incentive to re-program their thinking behaviors. This will endorse a broader range of re-entry options for the Department of Public Safety, and generate a selection of programs now being considered for the individual needs of prisoners.

In my case, which is typical, I was sentenced to 5 years in prison for theft, and ordered to pay the victim's \$2000 in restitution. The Hawaii Paroling Authority set my minimum term at 5 years, the same as the max. I applied for a reduction of minimum several times, to no avail, and was unconditionally discharged after I served out my entire sentence. This meant that I didn't have to pay the restitution, so the victims didn't get compensated. I have no qualms with having to serve out my entire sentence, as I was not obligated to participate in any of the programs that were recommended, nor was I required to report my whereabouts to anybody afterwards. As a criminal, this gave me a license to do whatever I pleased – three years later I was arrested for drug trafficking in Bangkok, Thailand.

In light of the 'Second Chance Act of 2007,' which was recently passed by the US Congress, it would be a failure to overlook the advantages now available us. Presently, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, upon completion of an extensive in-house drug program (RDAAP), grants up to a year off of a non-violent offender's sentence as an incentive, in addition to six months in a half-way house. This is in addition to the Congressional mandate of 15% off of their sentence for good behavior. Statistics show this program to have the highest success rate in reducing recidivism in the nation.

I strongly support this bill. If we are serious about reducing recidivism and overcrowding in our prisons, I recommend this bill to be passed.

Aloha, Andy Botts

testimony

From: Mary Elizabeth [nugayou@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 3:58 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 125 and SR 64

TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

March, 20, 2008, Rm 225, 2:45 pm

TO: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Chair W. Espero, Vice Chair C. Nishihara & members

I strongly support SCR 125 and SR 64. There presently are insufficient programs, jobs, and activities for the inmates to participate in. This will give them the motivation to work toward good behavior which would create a more positive atmosphere in the prison. It will not only benefit the state financially but help to restore relationships within families.

In schools, the public/private sectors, there are incentive programs to encourage people. Teachers/managers consistently recognize students/workers who do better. If they fall, we pick them up and help them get back up and continue to encourage them. In the prison, the tendency is to tell them that they're failures.

SCR 125 and SR 64 is a step toward showing the inmates that we do care for their rehabilitation if they want to help themselves. It will give the inmates who have been waiting for a program such as this to prove themselves, especially the first time offenders who realize their mistake.

Thank you again.

With warm regards,

Elayne Funakoshi

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