

LATE TESTIMONY



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Public Safety

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
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H.B. 969 – RELATING TO PRIVATE PRISON PERFORMANCE AUDIT

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO, supports H.B. 969, which calls for the Auditor to conduct performance audits of private prisons on the Mainland with Hawaii inmates. The performance audits of private prisons would focus on the treatment and services provided to Hawaii inmates, the facilitation of family and community connections, and the department of public safety's monitoring and enforcement of those contracts.

It is disturbing there has never been an audit of the private Mainland prisons which Hawaii has contracted with to house the State's inmates, despite the fact that the State spent more than \$50 million in 2007 to transfer inmates from Hawaii to private prisons on the Mainland. Of particular concern is that deaths and serious injuries have occurred at several of the contract prisons. We believe that an independent audit could be helpful in determining how cost-effective it is to transfer prisoners out-of-state, and whether it reduces recidivism in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 969.

Respectfully submitted,

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