

SB 539

Measure Title:

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Report Title:

Reentry Services Division; Established; Duties

Description:

Reorganizes and renames the corrections program services division of DPS to the reentry services division, whereby the reentry services division will work closely with the furlough programs in each county that are managed by the institutions division to ensure that the reentry needs of inmates are being met.

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 539
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2009; 1:15PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the legislature's sincere interest in the Department's efforts with respect to re-entry and the accompanying services we provide in our efforts to rehabilitate offenders. However, PSD strongly opposes Senate Bill 539, which seeks to establish a reentry division within the Department.

As you know, PSD recently provided this committee and the House Committee on Public Safety with two in-depth briefings regarding our efforts to comply with the provisions of Act 8, most of which are not funded, and on our comprehensive offender reentry system plan. In addition to those efforts, the PSD is also currently developing and will implement internal "directed" reorganizations of several sections within the Department.

Our current internal reorganization efforts are specifically designed to ensure the Corrections Division operates more effectively and efficiently with current resources by streamlining several operations and consolidating some to be more cohesively sound

operations. These changes will enable the Department to more effectively perform our core correctional management, inmate management, and classification functions.

In addition, the Department is currently considering the reorganization of the major branches within the Institutions Division into two separate and distinct areas of corrections (jails and prisons). At present both, jails and prisons have one overall Corrections Manager, which is inefficient, extremely burdensome, and often times requires the Institutions Division Administrator to work 60-70 hours per week.

As written, this measure would in essence direct the Department to reorganize elements that are not necessarily similar nor have the same basic functions or mission within the corrections field. Further, although this measure states that no additional funds will be provided to carry out the provisions contained in SB 539, the fact remains, costs will be incurred, as this type of major reorganization requires an enormous amount staff time, effort, dedicated resources, and in-depth consultations with both the HGEA and the UPW unions. It also requires the approval of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) and the Department of Budget and Finance, both of which must complete extensive reviews and analysis of any proposed organization.

Further, in these extremely challenging fiscal times, we all have a shared Responsibility to ensure that our taxpayer dollars are used for those items and services that are the most critical to the people of Hawaii. Given that this measure is clearly not one of critical importance when weighed against the difficult financial challenges the state is experiencing and coupled with the fact that the Department already has in place a comprehensive offender reentry system plan, this measure is unnecessary and we respectfully request it be held.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 5, 2009

TIME: 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC)

Aloha, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and distinguished members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chairperson of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, which is a hui of 22 treatment agencies throughout the state.

HSAC supports SB539 with Recommendations

HSAC recommends that such plans include systems integration at all levels of planning and implementation. Cooperative networks can reduce costs and improve outcomes.

Tilling the Soil for Re-entry: System Integration

Re-entry or transition planning can only work if justice, substance abuse systems, and community have a capacity and a commitment to work together.

Good re-entry planning for inmates requires a division of responsibility among prison, substance abuse providers and community providers that starts with proper screening and assessments of appropriate offenders including identifying potential intervention points and stabilization issues in the transition planning.

The results will only be as good as the correctional-behavioral health partnership in the community.

In general, integration of criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse systems can reduce duplication of services and administrative functions, freeing up scarce resources that can be used to provide transition planning and assist inmates in their re-entry to community. Mechanisms for creating this interconnected network will include the following:

- new relationships among service organizations to coordinate the provision of services,
- the accurate recording of service provision,
- management information systems (with information sharing as permitted confidentiality requirements), and
- staff training.

Working partnerships among probation, neighborhood businesses, and service providers can also develop opportunities for the ex-inmates to participate in restorative and therapeutic activities and community service projects.

The APIC Model, as defined by SAMHSA, is a model that could provide infrastructure for reentry programming.

The APIC Model	
Assess	<i>Assess the inmate’s clinical and social needs, and public safety risks</i>
Plan	<i>Plan for the treatment and services required to address the inmate’s needs</i>
Identify	<i>Identify required community and correctional programs responsible for post-release services</i>
Coordinate	<i>Coordinate the transition plan to ensure implementation and avoid gaps in care with community-based services.</i>

Create a Task Force to Develop Partnerships for Systems Integration

A coordinating task force comprising of all stakeholders at the local level can be a key element in systems integration. This coordinating task force will work with staff providing re-entry planning to identify and remove barriers to successful re-entry.

System integration is not an event, a document, or position. It is an ongoing process of communicating, goal setting, assigning accountability, evaluating and reforming. Most important is collaboration among providers and understanding that some ex-inmates will return to custody, and thus re-entry can be seen as part of a cycle of care.

Fred Osher, M.D., Henry J. Steadman, Ph.D., Heather Barr, J.D., M.A (2002).; “A Best Practice Approach to Community Re-entry” Funded by Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, CSAT, and Center for Mental Health Services, CMHS. The APIC Model: Delmar, NY, The National GAINS Center.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information and are available for questions, if needed.



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawai'i

February 5, 2009

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB 539 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS
Hearing: February 5, 2009, 1:15 p.m., Room 229

Position: Support

I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 539 which reorganizes and renames the corrections program services division of DPS to the reentry services division, and will ensure that the reentry needs of inmates are being met.

The proposal focuses efforts of the department, the programs, and all facilities on the concept of working toward the reentry from the time of intake. More than 95% of incarcerated individuals will reenter the community. This focus on reentry will help reduce parole violations, enable successful reintegration back into the community and thus also improve public safety.

Preparation for leaving prison by providing programming and job training can go a long way to improve their chances of becoming a productive member of the community.

Please pass SB 539 so that we may refocus our efforts on reducing recidivism and successful reintegration, which will then reduce future rates of incarceration.

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