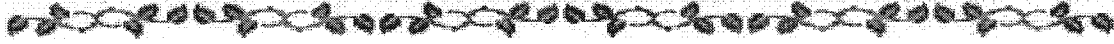


COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2009

1:15 PM

Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT

SB 539 - Establishing a Reentry Services Division at PSD

PSMTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE TESTIMONY

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

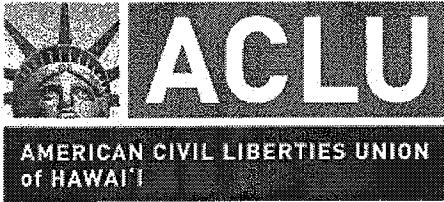
My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for our incarcerated individuals, enhance our quality of justice, and promote public safety. We come today to speak for the 6,000+ individuals whose voices have been silenced by incarceration, always mindful that more than 2,000 of those individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones.

SB 539 reorganizes and renames the Corrections Program Services Division of PSD 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 reentry needs of inmates are being met.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of SB 539.

Act 8 mandated a change in the Department of Public Safety's mission to focus on rehabilitation and reentry. This bill codifies that the Department will continue to focus on reentry from day one of an individual's incarceration.

We ask the Committee to pass SB 539. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



LATE TESTIMONY

Via E-mail: PSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
Place: Room 229
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of SB 539, Relating to Corrections

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in strong support of SB 539, which reorganizes and renames the corrections program services division of the Department of Public Safety to the reentry services division.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to develop a comprehensive reentry system. In general, reentry programs are far more cost-effective – and far more effective at reducing recidivism – than incarceration. Every effort should be made to provide Hawaii’s inmates with the support and services they need to become productive and responsible community members. Reorganizing the Department of Public Safety to ensure a clear focus on reentry and reintegration is a tangible step towards that goal.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gluck
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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