

SCR 184 / SR 129

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO
UNDERTAKE A FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATED TO INMATE
RE-INTERGRATION.

Report Title:

Inmate Re-integration Programs

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
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No. _

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 184/ SENATE RESOLUTION 129
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO UNDERTAKE A FEASIBILITY
STUDY RELATED TO INMATE RE-INTEGRATION.

By

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee Public Safety
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2009; 1:30PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Representative Hanohano, Representative Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **opposes** Senate Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 184/ Senate Resolution 129, which requests the PSD to undertake a feasibility study related to inmate re-integration.

On January 27, 2009, PSD provided an in-depth informational briefing to this Committee and the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs on the Department's progress with respect to compliance of the provisions of the Community Safety Act of 2007, many of which were not funded. At the time, PSD also provided an in-depth briefing regarding the Department's Comprehensive Offender Reentry System Plan. Further, the PSD provides no less than twenty-six annual reports to the legislature on a variety of issues, including our reentry efforts.

In addition, PSD already requires all able-bodied inmates to participate in facility programs and available work lines. We cannot force inmates to participate in facility programs or available work lines. In cases where inmates refused to comply with facility program and/or work line

opportunities, PSD reports this information to the Hawaii Paroling Authority in the inmates' Prescriptive Plan Update (PPU).

Further, we are also developing additional community-based work lines using Correctional Industries that will operate from the Federal Detention Center Honolulu and the Waiawa Correctional Facility. Therefore, PSD sees no need for this measure as the Department already reviews its efforts, and makes appropriate and prudent adjustments as needed to ensure we are meeting the reentry needs of offenders.

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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone/E-Mail: (808) [533-3454](tel:8085333454)/kat.caphi@gmail.com



CORRECTED TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

1:30 PM

Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT

SCR 184/SR 129 - PSD Feasibility Study on Inmate Reintegration

PBSTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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.

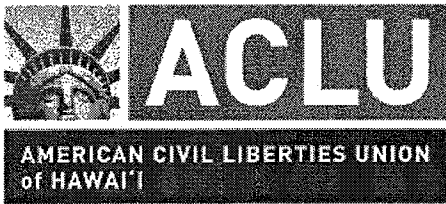
SCR 184/SR 129 requests PSD to undertake a feasibility study related to inmate reintegration.

Community Alliance on Prisons stands in strong support of this measure, which acknowledges that many incarcerated individuals could be eligible for reentry programs. It also adopts a policy that mandates all inmates to participate in in-facility programs, including workline programs, and increases the scope and number of workline programs it currently operates at its prison and jail facilities.

In this economy, we need to reduce the outrageous and rising cost of incarceration by developing a full menu of alternatives to incarceration. As Sen. Jim Webb, the author of the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009 said, *"Focus must be placed on locking up the most dangerous people instead of diverting time and money to incarcerate the wrong people."* Sen. Webb had an article in the Sunday, March 29th Parade Magazine section entitled, **WHY WE MUST FIX OUR PRISONS**, which we encourage you to read. We simply cannot continue to lock up people we are mad at. Prison should be reserved for violent offenders. Read his article at: <http://www.parade.com/news/2009/03/why-we-must-fix-our-prisons.html>

SCR 184/SR 129 promotes accountability and transparency and prods the department into complying with Act 8.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



VIA EMAIL: PSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 1:30 p.m.
Place: Room 229
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of the Intent of S.C.R. 184

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 support of the intent of S.C.R. 184, which requests the Department of Public Safety to undertake a feasibility study related to inmate reintegration.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to develop reintegration programs. In general, reintegration 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. Undertaking a feasibility study focusing on programs that support reintegration is a tangible step towards that goal.

Although we do not believe that mandating programs is the best way to foster rehabilitation, we support the intent of this measure in seeking additional ways to reduce recidivism and improve correctional programs.

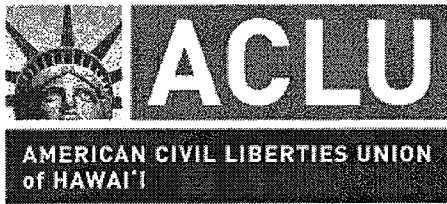
The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that 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,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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VIA EMAIL: PSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 1:30 p.m.
Place: Room 229
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of the Intent of S.R. 129

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 support of the intent of S.R. 129, which requests the Department of Public Safety to undertake a feasibility study related to inmate reintegration.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to develop reintegration programs. In general, reintegration 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. Undertaking a feasibility study focusing on programs that support reintegration is a tangible step towards that goal.

Although we do not believe that mandating programs is the best way to foster rehabilitation, we support the intent of this measure in seeking additional ways to reduce recidivism and improve correctional programs.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 1:30 pm — Room 229

SCR 184/SR129 – PSD FEASIBILITY STUDY RE INMATE REINTEGRATION — STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda, and members of the committee,

My name is Peter Gellatly. I am the president of Better Media and represent the local community on the state's Corrections Population Management Commission. I also am honored to be working on public safety issues within the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions.

My value in this and any public safety discussion, if there is any, lies in my orientation as a results-driven businessman. There are differences, of course, between private and public sector concerns, but both require plans with cost-effective goals and deadlines; rigid accountability; and out-of-the-box initiatives, especially in times of stress. Above all, we need to exercise common sense.

This is a time of stress. Even before the recession engulfed us, the costs of incarceration were bankrupting Hawaii and other states. Now we need to act wisely and quickly to reduce our costs while protecting the community.

Common sense tells us that simply warehousing people neither prepares them for, nor protects us from, their return to the community. This common sense is supported by sickening awful recidivism numbers that doubtless will rise in the current economic climate. As broke as we are, we will be even broker soon. ...

While this resolution could go much further, it will work well in partnership with other, stronger measures proposed in this session. I urge you to pass it and hold the Department of Public Safety responsible for its implementation, possibly moving the due date further forward.

Thank you very much.

aloha,

Peter Gellatly

From: Mary Elizabeth [mailto:nugayou@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:26 PM
To: PSM Testimony
Subject: SCR 184/SR129 testimony

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

1:30 PM

Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT

SCR 184/SR129 - PSD FEASIBILITY STUDY RE: INMATE REINTEGRATION

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda, and committee members:

I strongly support SCR184/SR129. The facilities at SCC were not designed to support reintegration of the inmates. Presently, the rooms are too small to facilitate the number of inmates who are eligible and desire to be enrolled in programs or classes to prepare for their reintegration. Were they able to take the required programs early in their incarceration, they may be eligible for release earlier instead of waiting two years before release date before they can qualify for any programs.

It's not only about integration, but cutting down the number of inmates to cut the cost of incarceration.

Thank you for your consideration and I strongly urge passage of this resolution.

Aloha,

Elaine Funakoshi