

 **the Drug Policy Forum**  
of hawaii

**LATE TESTIMONY**

March 11, 2010

To: Representative Faye Hanohano, Chair  
Representative Henry Aquino, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB2026 SD2 Relating to Parole  
Hearing: Thursday, March 11, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Room 309

Position: Strong Opposition

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in opposition to SB 2026 SD1, Relating to Parole. This measure establishes a parole service fee of \$60 to be made a condition of parole by the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

This measure hinders reentry of those exiting incarceration. Many individuals leave prison with little money and limited resources; and many have other financial obligations such as child support.

This fee would raise limited revenue and in fact may be false revenue. Collecting the money and the negative impact of imposing the fee on those who cannot afford it may actually cost the state more than the funds actually raised by increased rates of recidivism.

Financial obligations that cannot be met will hinder reentry and may also increase incarceration rates. Public policy should encourage successful reintegration with society, not place barriers that lead to failure.

We urge the committee to hold this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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**aquino1-Ruffalyne**

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**From:** Mary Elizabeth [nugayou@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 5:48 PM  
**To:** PBStestimony  
**Subject:** SB 2026 SD2 testimony  
**Attachments:** --static--liam\_crowdsurfer\_bottom.gif

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**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair**

**Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, March 11, 2010**

**Room 309**

**9:00 a.m.**

**STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 2026 SD2**

**Parole Services Fee**

Dear Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee:

Please do not support this bill. I realize that the State has a budget shortfall, but to make up a deficit by bleeding the incarcerated for more money is unimaginable. Their opportunities for paid "positions" used to be from \$.25 - \$.50 p/hr. However, the \$.50 p/hr (maximum pay) was deleted due to lack of funding. The price the inmates pay for telephone calls is \$.25 per MINUTE. We could call overseas for that price. At Halawa the families could order book from approved book stores, i.e., Borders, but NOT at Suaguaro so they don't have opportunities to join a book club and pay a lower price.

The bottom line is they don't have money, so who pays. Their families. The inmate, when released, has to find housing, a job, and deal with emotional changes in his life; and now, you're going to put another roadblock in his path.

The Victim Fund is already being compensated by the offender. When he goes to pay a bill, he is also required to pay into the Victim Fund in hundreds of dollars.

Most of the incarcerated do not have money and rely on the pay they get from their jobs or from their families.

Please have mercy on them who are incarcerated, especially the ones who are paying with their lives for the "one" mistake they made.

Aloha,  
Elaine Funakoshi  
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