

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No. _

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 213, SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

By
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Thursday, March 19, 2009, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the legislature's interest in our efforts to provide effective rehabilitative programs, reducing recidivism, operating more efficiently, and other areas already addressed in Act 8 and Act 213 of SLH 2007. As written, PSD cannot support Senate Bill 213, SD1, which seeks to require PSD to establish key performance indicators or measures, and to submit comprehensive reports related to Act 8, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, also known as the Community Safety Act of 2007 at least three (3) times each year.

Currently, Act 8 and Act 213 of SLH 2007 already requires PSD to submit several reports to the Legislature related to the performance indicators on reentry programs. These reports include performance indicators on inmate transition and reentry into the community; the inmate apprenticeship program; inmate transitional work furlough and substance abuse treatment services; the inmate job development program, and several other required areas. The reporting requirements of ACT 8 are in addition to the

approximately twenty-four other various reports the department already provides the legislature. The Department acknowledges that his measure may have some merit; however, PSD respectfully submits that a Senate or House Current Resolution requesting that information/data data not currently reported by both, Act 8 and Act 213 of SLH 2007, but is reflected in this measure be added to those reporting requirements.

In addition, the requirement to provide comprehensive reports three times each year will create a substantial increase in workload, which **cannot** be absorbed by the current staff. The current staff's ever increasing workload is already burdensome and is compounded by the fact that the department does not have adequate database capacity, or computers for the correctional facilities. In order to comply with the proposed reporting requirement, at least one additional full time staff position would be required along with funding for additional office equipment. Further, it should also be noted that any marked changes in performance indicators are gradual, taking place over an extended period of time, and cannot generally be determined in a short period of time.

Further, to ensure the information in the reports is complete, accurate and provided on a timely basis, the Department would require time to establish definitions and measures; develop and test data collection and reporting procedures; and conduct recruitment efforts to fill the new position that would be required. We would also require the time necessary to train the staff in the new procedures.

The Department acknowledges that his measure may have some merit; however, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and clarify the manpower and cost implications of this unnecessary and burdensome measure.

TO: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 19, 2009
10:00 AM
Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

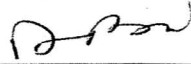
RE: SB 213 SD1 – Testimony in Support of Performance Indicators

FROM: Daphne Barbee-Wooten
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 1909, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, (808) 533-0275

Dear Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of this Committee on Public Safety:

My name is Attorney Daphne Barbee-Wooten. I am an attorney in private practice. I support this bill which gives measurement and evaluation for positive outcomes for inmates reentry program. It will assist in tracking the success of persons entering the community and would point out problems to the reentry process. One problem to the reentry process is the employers' denying occupations to some of the offenders. This bill would be able to point out what areas need improvement in reentering incarcerated persons into society.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii

3-18-09


Daphne Barbee-Wooten
Attorney at Law