

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

ALBERT TUFONO
CHAIR

DANE K. ODA
MEMBER

ROY W. REEBER
MEMBER

MAX OTANI
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2250
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Albert Tufono, Chair

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

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) cannot support Senate Bill 2250 as written. Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes 353-71, parole officers are responsible for the supervision of paroled prisoners. A prisoner placed on furlough or even extended furlough would not be deemed a paroled prisoner and would be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety.

It is recommend that this bill held or Section 2 (b) (5) be amended.

Thank you this opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

SB2342 Relating to Sentencing Permits certain non-violent repeat offenders convicted of drug possession to be sentenced to alternative programs instead of to prison.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY: Senator Will Espero, Chair, Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010, 1:25: PM, Conference Room 229

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

GOOD MORNING CHAIR ESPERO, VICE CHAIR BUNDA AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than twenty non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

The vast majority of prisoners who could benefit from drug abuse treatment do not receive it, despite two decades of research that demonstrate its effectiveness, according to researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). NIDA scientists note that about half of all prisoners (including some sentenced for non-drug-related offenses) are dependent on drugs, yet less than 20 percent of inmates suffering from drug abuse or dependence receive formal treatment. In 2006 for Hawaii, it is estimated to be 85% of inmates need treatment and less than 15% of those incarcerated receive any treatment.

HSAC strongly supports SB 2342:

"Treating drug-abusing offenders improves public health and safety," said NIDA Director Dr. Nora D. Volkow. "Providing drug abusers with treatment also makes it less likely that these abusers will return to the criminal justice system. In addition to the devastating social consequences for individuals and their families, drug abuse exacts serious health effects."

The criminal justice system is in a unique position to encourage drug abusers to enter and remain in treatment, thereby disrupting the vicious cycle of drug use and crime.

"In fact, outcomes for those who are legally pressured to enter treatment are as good as or better than those without legal pressure."

"Addiction is a stigmatized disease that the criminal justice system often fails to view as a medical condition; as a consequence, its treatment is not as available as it is for other medical conditions," stated Dr. Redonna K. Chandler, the chief of NIDA's Services Research Branch.