

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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LATE TESTIMONY

SUPPLEMENT TO SB 2533 SD1 TESTIMONY

Over the years there have been numerous incidents including deaths, riots, sexual assaults, rapes, etc. at the contract prisons run by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). Here is a sampling of CCA facility incidents. Community Alliance on Prisons was shocked when the PSD Director called Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona a 'well-run facility' with a 'professional staff' only days after the brutal murder of Bronson Nunuha. Something is VERY WRONG.

SOME INCIDENTS AT CCA FACILITIES 2000-2009

FLORENCE CORRECTIONAL CENTER, FLORENCE, ARIZONA

September 12, 2000 - About 20 Hawai'i inmates at Florence Correctional Center join in the so-called "**Rice Riot.**" Three corrections officers were injured as inmates smash windows, computers, television sets and food carts.

April 11, 2001 - **Riot** in a recreational yard at Florence Correctional Center involves 23 inmates, with two corrections officers injured and one inmate seriously injured.

April 16, 2001 - **Hawai'i inmate Iulani Amani, 23, dies** after packets of crystal methamphetamine burst in his stomach, causing a drug-induced heart attack.

April 30, 2001 - Monitors reports also show that a year after the first Hawai'i inmates were placed at Florence, the prison still is not offering educational and rehabilitation programs that are required by contract and included in the contract price.

April 2003 - More than one out of every four inmates who underwent drug testing came up positive for drug use.

DIAMONDBACK CORRECTIONAL CENTER, WATONGA, OKLAHOMA

June 2003 - The chief of security at Diamondback Correctional Facility reports to Hawai'i monitors that prison staff believes 2 ounces of crystal methamphetamine were being smuggled into the prison each week.

October 17, 2003 - Hawai'i monitors sent to inspect the Diamondback Correctional Facility at Watonga, Okla. warn conditions at the prison are "**deteriorating,**" and urge the state to freeze the number of inmates there.

May 14, 2004 - About 500 inmates from Arizona **riot** for several hours at Diamondback. An investigation by Arizona corrections officials finds inadequate staffing at Diamondback meant **prison staff was unable to prevent the disturbance.**

TALLAHATCHIE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, TUTWILER, MISSISSIPPI

July 17, 2005 - 2:30 AM - Cell doors in lockdown area open 'in error' and two Hawai`i inmates are beaten. One suffered a broken jaw and the other was severely beaten and brain damaged - he now needs 24/7 care and is in Hawai`i State Hospital. His case has not gone to court yet.

December 2006 - Female prison guard Irons was arrested for distributing \$6,000 worth of crystal methamphetamine to Hawai`i inmates

March 2007 - Warden Robert Parker, Sergeant Willy, and other prominent staff members at TCCF were fired by CCA following yet another incident where a Hawai`i male inmate was found walking around the facility naked, paranoid, and high on crystal methamphetamine. This was around the time that the inmates were on lockdown for over a month with no contact with family and friends.

July 2007 - Counselors not reporting for work - show up once a week instead of daily.

SAGUARO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, ELOY, ARIZONA

August 3, 2007 - The staff at Saguario Correctional Facility **inadvertently opened security doors**, releasing Hawai`i inmates from their cells. Seven inmates left their cells when the doors opened, **one was injured** in a fight with another inmate and a third inmate had to be subdued for refusing to return to his cell.

August 12, 2007 - The heads of the **education and addiction-treatment programs at a private Arizona prison** holding Hawaii inmates abruptly **quit their jobs** complaining of poor management, inadequate facilities and lack of staffing.

November 2007 - The Hawai`i Delegation was repeatedly told that the prison was '**ramping up,**' which was why this 'program intensive' prison was program-shy. Why did we pay for services that were not being delivered?

February 17, 2010 - Hawai`i inmate, **Bronson Nunuha, was murdered** in his cell in the SHIP II 'program', where individuals are locked down 22 hours a day. How could this happen???

RED ROCK CORRECTIONAL CENTER, ELOY, ARIZONA

It was reported during the November 2007 Hawai`i Delegation visit that cell doors had opened '**inadvertently**' four times at Red Rock.

OTTER CREEK CORRECTIONAL CENTER, WHEELWRIGHT, KENTUCKY

October 2005 - Women are processed into Otter Creek (from Brush, CO). **Diarrhea and vomiting** widespread and persisted for the first several months. **Women advised by nurse not to drink the water** - nurse later sanctioned.

December 1, 2005 - Hawai`i woman, RR, rushed to the hospital with pneumonia after being denied help at the medical unit. Denied follow-up doctor's visit. (CAP has letter from doctor)

December 18, 2005 - Hawai`i woman, WK, rushed to the hospital after many pleas for medical help because of persistent arm and leg pain. It took security seven minutes to open her door to give her nebulizer and 2 hours to get to Hazard Medical Center. WK underwent triple by-pass surgery.

December 31, 2005 - **Sarah Ah Mau, Hawai`i inmate, died** after being repeatedly threatened with lockdown if she continued to ask for medical help

January 15, 2006 - (phone call from women) Women with diabetes made to take medicine at inappropriate times. Several Kentucky inmates are in the hospital

January 19, 2006 - (phone call from women) WK up and walking in yard for the first time. Still no follow-up surgical visit. Women still denied their asthma and physician-prescribed medication. Women being told they are not Kentucky prisoners, but Hawai`i tells them they are under Kentucky's control - mass confusion and conflicting rules

January 27, 2006 - WK rushed to hospital at 2:30 AM

May 2006 - report in local Kentucky newspaper the Lexington Herald-Leader reported that **Eldon Tackett, a 43-year-old guard at Otter Creek**, had been accused of providing food and candy to a female prisoner in exchange for oral sex. The Kentucky-based Floyd County Times reported that **Otter Creek's drug counselor, Tanya Crum, 32, had been arrested for trafficking in methadone.**

February 2007 - Fluorescent tube lights on ceiling are 'night lights' (enough light to read by)

August 27, 2007 - **Latasha Glover, Kentucky inmate, died**

January 22, 2008 - **Carla J. Meade, Warden Joyce Arnold's secretary** smuggles a LOADED 22 CALIBER GUN into prison and **commits suicide** in the Warden's office.

July 2009 - Letter sent to Hawai`i alleging **multiple sex assaults** at Otter Creek by staff (**including ACOs and Chaplain**) listing names of alleged victims and alleged perpetrators

September 2009 - Hawai`i cancels contract with Otter Creek and brings **all but one woman** (Totie Tauala, the first Hawai`i woman sexually assaulted in 2007 at Otter Creek) back to Hawai`i

LATE TESTIMONY

Action the Drug Policy Group

A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
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Dedicated to safe, responsible, and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: House Committee on Public Safety

FROM: Pamela Lichty, MPH
President

DATE: March 11, 2009, 9 a.m.

RE: SB 2533, SD 1 RELATING TO AN AUDIT OF CONTRACTS WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WITH THE CORRECTIONS
CORPORATION OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER – **IN
SUPPORT**

Aloha Representative Hanohano and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm testifying on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group.

As an organization devoted to encouraging more sensible and effective public policy in the areas of drug control and criminal justice, DPAG strongly endorses the audit proposed in this measure. In fact, we believe this measure is long overdue given the constant drumbeat of media reports of problems with CCA facilities on the mainland housing Hawai'i inmates. We owe it to those whom we have sent to the continent to insure that their conditions are humane and we owe it to ourselves to see that the money flowing from our state coffers to other states is being expending wisely and with clear accountability.

Thank you for hearing this measure and we urge you to pass it out with a strong recommendation to LMG.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

 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: SB 2533 SD1 Relating to an Audit of Contracts
Hearing: Thursday, March 11, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Room 309

Position: Strong Support

I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2533 SD1 which requires a financial and management audit of the Department of Public Safety's contracts with the Corrections Corporation of America and the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu focusing on a comparison of quality of programming, costs and economic benefit to the state of housing Hawai'i inmates in mainland facilities and in the federal detention center with housing Hawai'i inmates in local facilities operated by the state.

In the report, the auditor will address the closure of the Kulani Correctional Facility and will make recommendations on the advisability of continuing the policy of housing inmates on the mainland.

The Department of Public Safety has said that closing the Kulani facility would save \$2.8 million per year; however, the public should know whether those savings have been realized, in view of the fact that other claims have not been realized.

Sex offender and drug abuse treatment programs were interrupted. Interruption of treatment programs often leads to longer prison stays, which ends up costing the state more money.

Closing Kulani has also meant that inmates classified as minimum security are housed in medium security facilities, which goes against correctional best practices. Kulani was the only work camp, offering a range of educational and occupational skills training. These skills are essential for successful reentry from prison back into the community.

Hawai'i now has over 2,000 people in mainland prisons. This audit is long overdue. In 14 years there has never been an independent audit of the contracted prisons. It is extremely important that this \$50 million of public money be audited.

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