

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

CLAYTON A. FRANK  
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING  
Deputy Director  
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2919, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 25, 2010; 11:00AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Representative Oshiro, Representative Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly opposes** Senate Bill 2919, SD1, HD1, which requires the PSD to provide security for the State's secure psychiatric rehabilitation facility located in Kaneohe. PSD does not have the appropriate staff to provide security for the State Hospital, nor does the Department have the financial resources to assist the Department of Health with security functions at any of its facilities.

The Corrections Division of PSD is primarily staffed by Adult Correctional Officers (ACO), whose work classification does not include "security officer or hospital orderly." The Corrections Division does not have the staff to divert to the State Hospital without severely compromising the safety and security of our correctional facilities, which places the staff, inmates, and public at risk.

In addition, the Sheriffs Division is staffed by Deputy Sheriffs, who are sworn law enforcement officers, not security officers or hospital orderlies. The Sheriffs Division

does not have enough staff to place Deputy Sheriffs at the State Hospital as they currently do not have the staff required to provide for the daily operations of the new Kapolei courthouse. To place Deputy Sheriffs at the State Hospital for "patients" is a poor use of our very limited law enforcement resources that are in more demand from our Judiciary and other State Departments.

Unfortunately, some State Hospital staff members and residence residing near the State Hospital may have developed a false sense of security when PSD had Security officer positions that were based at the State Hospital. It should be noted that the security officers were not responsible for security inside the hospital, but rather were primarily used as security at the gate entrance and parking lot area. The security officers were not provided any specific training in preventing escapes, working inside the hospital, nor monitoring of patients as those responsibilities were and continue to be the duties and responsibilities of Department of Health Hospital medical staff.

While PSD fully understands and appreciates the legislature's concerns with security at the State Hospital, PSD no longer has any security officer positions to provide security personnel at the State Hospital. The job classifications of both ACOs and Deputy Sheriffs are incompatible with the needs and functions of what is needed at the Hawaii State Hospital. For these reasons, and others previously stated, PSD strongly opposes SB 2919, SD1, HD1, and respectfully request this measure be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

*Myles Akira Yamamoto  
44-720 Hoonani Place  
Kaneohe HI 96744  
Ph: (808) 348-9167  
Email: myles1021@gmail.com*

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro  
Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2919 HD 1**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

My name is Myles Yamamoto. I am writing to ask for your support of SB 2919 HD 1. As both a concerned resident of Kaneohe and member of the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, I feel that it is of utmost importance that the legislature adopts this measure to ensure the safety and security of patients of the Hawaii State Hospital, hospital staff, Kaneohe residents, and members of the public at large.

I am deeply disturbed and concerned about the many reports of assaults and escapes from the facility. Perhaps most disturbing is the recent assault on a staff member and recent escapes of patients one of whom still remains at large and another who seemingly just walked away.

I understand the serious financial straits that our state is in, and can appreciate that money for programs and initiatives is very tight. That being said, I believe that it is times like these when government demonstrates what it values and where its' priorities lie. I would further argue that the primary and foremost priority of any government is to ensure the safety and security of its citizens. The priority of this value is echoed in our most sacred documents from the US Constitution to our very own State Constitution. The support of this committee of SB 2919 HD 1 reaffirms the Legislature's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its residents.

In closing, I again strongly urge this committee and the House of Representatives support the passage of SB 2919 HD 1. I thank you all for the time to testify on this important matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Myles A. Yamamoto

Glenn Ida  
45-284 Pahikaua St.  
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Finance

Thursday, Mar 25, 2010, at 11:00 AM.  
Conference Room 308

Good Morning Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Committee members.

My name is Glenn Ida. I'm a Kaneohe resident; I strongly support SB 2919, SD1, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii State Hospital.

The security situation at the State Hospital is very disturbing. From time to time, we have to endure the uncertainty and dangers of escapees from a secure psychiatric facility. An escapee from December 2009 is still at large. On Sunday evening, March 21, 2010, there was another escape. That patient has turned himself in.

It is my understanding that some of the patients are being placed there by the State Court System, therefore I believe the State has a responsibility to provide enough security to safeguard the residents of Kaneohe especially since the facilities are in close proximity to the student population of Windward Community College and Kaneohe District park where our children and seniors congregate.

If not, then perhaps those patients should be treated in prison where there would be adequate security and less chances of an escape into the surrounding community.

I strongly support, SB 2919, SD1, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii State Hospital.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important matter.

Glenn Ida  
808-295-1280