

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director
Administration

Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 130 HD1
RELATING TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

by

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Interim Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Thursday, February 24, 2011; 10:45AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the Legislature's support of its efforts to provide evidence based reintegration programs for both the men and women who are incarcerated in Hawaii's adult correctional institutions. Although the State's tough economic situation over the past several years has caused PSD to drastically reduce its correctional programs to basic core services, PSD was still able to maintain at least two very worthy programs, Ka Hale Ho'ala Hou No Na Wahine, The Home of Reawakening for Women, a transitional program operated by TJ Mahoney for female offenders and Hina Mauka's Ke Alaula substance abuse therapeutic community treatment program for female offenders at the Women's Community Correctional Center, through continual funding by the Legislature.

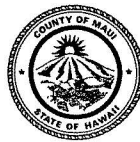
Currently, PSD is developing a Comprehensive Reentry Plan to address the needs of both male and female offenders within our correctional institutions while remaining responsibly cognizant of the current fiscal difficulties facing our community. PSD, therefore, feels that it would not be prudent to pursue the enactment of HB 130, at this time.

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

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COUNTY COUNCIL
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

February 23, 2011

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Member

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2011; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 130 HD1,
RELATING TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure requires the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the community and contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Our female imprisoned population rose by 89% from January 1, 2001 to June 30, 2008.
2. A classification study, commissioned by the Department of Public Safety, revealed that the majority of our incarcerated women are nonviolent (84%) and imprisoned for drugs or drug related crimes.
3. Almost half (48%) of our incarcerated women are classified as Community custody, which is defined by the department as "Individuals who are eligible to participate in community release programs such as work furlough, extended furlough or residential transitional living facilities".
4. Many of our incarcerated women have been having children since their teens. They need help navigating their way into the free world.
5. Community based gender responsive programs can help women chart a more positive course for their lives as well for the lives of their children.
6. Community based gender responsive programs provide structure, monitoring, and accountability and help women and girls develop the tools to lead responsible and fulfilling lives. They provide the solid foundation that is crucial when these women reenter the community by providing the necessary support through effective programming to address the woman's specific needs.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

GCB:amm

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

- For:** **HB 130 RELATING TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION.** Requires the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the community and contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community
- To:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
- Time:** Thursday, Feb. 24 2011, 10:00: AM, Conference Room 308

Good morning Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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 20 non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

HSAC supports HB 130:

Advancements in treatment methodologies in recent years, especially in gender responsive criminality treatment, have proved to be very effective as well as exceptionally cost-effective. Treatment works and saves money not just in the long run, but also in the current year.

Especially because of the current economic situation, we must develop new solutions with change leaders who can help Hawaii transition into new proven services through diverting existing funds.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

February 24, 2011

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

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: HB 130 SD1 Relating to Community Reintegration
Hearing: Thursday, February 24, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Room 308

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of this measure.

HB 130 SD1 requires the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the community and contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community.

Hawai'i's female imprisoned population rose by 89% from January 1, 2001 (403) to June 30, 2008 (760). A study commissioned by the Department of Public Safety, revealed that the majority of our incarcerated women are nonviolent (84%) and imprisoned for drugs or drug related crimes.

Almost half (48%) of our incarcerated women are classified as Community custody, eligible to participate in community release programs such as work furlough, extended furlough or residential transitional living facilities.

Incarceration is an expensive policy that doesn't solve basic problems or help to reduce recidivism. A more fiscally sound policy is to fund programs that appropriately address the needs of women to help them successfully transition back to the community, successfully reunify with their families, and become responsible parents.

Community-based programs are not only more effective, they save money. We encourage the committee to shift funds from prison housing to community reintegration beds.

Community-based gender responsive programs provide structure, monitoring, accountability and help women and girls develop the tools to lead responsible,

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fulfilling lives. They provide the solid foundation that is crucial when these women reenter the community by providing the necessary support through effective programming to address the woman's specific needs.

We urge the committee to pass HB 130 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TJ MAHONEY & ASSOCIATES

Ka Hale Ho`ala Hou No Nā Wāhine

The Home of Reawakening for Women

524 Kaaahi St. Honolulu, HI 96817 Ph. 748-4300 Fax 748-4343 www.reawakeningforwomen.org

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro Chair; Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
DATE, TIME Thursday, February 24, 2011, 10:00 A.M.
PLACE Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Re: HB 130, HD1 (HSCR 549) - STRONG SUPPORT for Community Reintegration Beds for Women

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee. My name is Lorraine Robinson. I am the Executive Director for TJ Mahoney & Associates, Ka Hale Ho`ala Hou No Nā Wāhine (the Home of Reawakening for Women). I've served in this capacity for over fifteen years. Prior to this position, I worked as a social worker at the Women's Community Correctional Center. I am in strong support of SB 320.

TJ Mahoney is a leader in community corrections with over 35 years experience assisting offenders with community re-entry. We have contracted with the Department of Public Safety since 1992 and have received national recognition for our work with women offenders. We are the only program of our kind in Hawaii and utilize leading edge, best practice gender responsive programming. Our services are comprehensive in scope and address the complex and multiple needs of the population we serve. 68% of our residents have remained out of prison for 3 years after completion of our program.

Through many years of experience in working with women exiting prison, I have come to the clear conclusion that releasing a woman from prison without transitional support is a serious disservice to her, her family, and to our communities. In order to end up in prison, a woman has made a series of self-destructive and anti-social choices that have caused damage to her and to others. The typical female offender comes from a background of poverty, low educational achievement, family history of addiction and incarceration, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse (unresolved trauma), and few resources to address any of these risk factors. Protective factors are typically lacking which leads these individuals to seek out self-medication through drugs, creating addiction, and leading to a lifestyle of criminality and incarceration. In order for a woman to succeed in the community after release from prison, she must change not only her behaviors, but her beliefs about herself and what she is capable of accomplishing. This type of change does not happen in a vacuum. It is a process that takes time and practice. We would be remiss to assume that women who have lived the lifestyle that led them to incarceration, when released from prison and left to their own devices, will be able to set in motion and sustain the changes necessary to build a pro-social, responsible and productive life. In the vast majority of instances, it simply cannot be done without assistance and sustained support.

Female offenders are typically non-violent and do not pose a risk to public safety. The majority of them will be released to the community and need skills and tools to assist them in navigating the obstacles they face in reconstructing a meaningful and satisfying life. There is no better place for this to occur than in a structured and monitored community setting where they are held accountable for their actions and attitudes while gradually increasing their skills, practicing them daily while interacting in the community at large through employment, attending school, and fostering their sense of self-efficacy. Reentry services for women are cost effective in that they impact the social fabric of our community by decreasing recidivism and contributing to stopping the revolving door, thus preempting the intergenerational cycle of abuse, addiction, crime and incarceration. Research has clearly shown that successful re-entry programs lead to less recidivism, less crime, fewer victims, and increased public safety. Restoring people's lives makes for good public safety. I strongly support HB 130, HD1 (HSCR 549). We all benefit from safer communities. Please support this most important piece of legislation.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Phone/E-mail: (808) 533-3454/ kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Thursday February 24, 2011

Room 308

10:00 a.m.

HB 130 HD1 - STRONG SUPPORT for Community Reintegration Beds for Women

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on justice issues in Hawai'i for more than a decade. We respectfully offer our testimony always being mindful that Hawai'i has some 6,000 people behind bars including approximately 1,800 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones and homes - the ancestral homes for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians.

HB 130 requires the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the community and contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community.

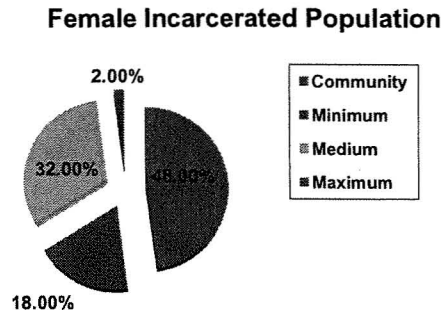
Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Hawai'i has achieved the dubious distinction of having one of the fastest rising female incarcerated populations in the nation. Our female imprisoned population rose by 89% from January 1, 2001 (403) to June 30, 2008 (760).

A classification study¹, commissioned by the Department of Public Safety, revealed that the majority of our incarcerated women are nonviolent (84%) and imprisoned for drugs or drug related crimes. almost half (48%) of our incarcerated women are classified as Community custody, which is defined by the department² as "*Individuals who are eligible to participate in community release programs such as work furlough, extended furlough or residential transitional living facilities*".

¹ Classification - A Systematic Approach for Correctional Management, Camille Camp, Patricia Hardyman, Ph.D., Presentation to Hawai'i State Legislature, January 2008.

² Department of Public Safety 2008 Annual Report, Inmate Classification Office, page 18.

The following chart illustrates the findings of the Classification study.



Based on the female imprisoned 2008 Annual Report that means that 365 of our incarcerated women are community custody. If 250 of these women were deemed to pose no threat the public safety, wouldn't it be better to fund programs that more appropriately address their needs to help them transition into the community and reunify with their families, especially their children?

If, as the department has testified, it costs \$137/day to incarcerate an individual in Hawai'i, it is costing taxpayers \$12,501,250 a year to incarcerate 250 women who should be in the community according to the department's own definition.

Transferring the money from corrections to community reintegration beds is a more sane way of treating women who break the law - address their needs appropriately and help them learn how to live more pro-social and fulfilling lives. Many of our incarcerated women have been having children since their teens. They need help navigating their way into the free world.

Community based gender responsive reintegration programs provide structure, monitoring, and accountability to help women develop the tools necessary to lead responsible and fulfilling lives. They provide the solid foundation that is crucial when these women reenter the community by providing the necessary support through effective programming to address the woman's specific needs. These programs actually enhance public safety.

Especially since women's pathways to crime are different from the pathways of men, it is important that gender responsive community-based reintegration programs be adequately funded to reduce recidivism. These programs more directly affect the needs of females in the criminal processing system. Creating a network of these programs can facilitate contact with their children and help the family reunify.

Since the data show that children of incarcerated parents are six to seven times more likely than other children to end up incarcerated themselves, this is an investment in future generations. Let's break the negative cycle

We must get correctional costs under control. Since 2000, appropriations for the Department of Public Safety have increased from \$128M to \$243.7M in 2009, an increase of 90% during that timeframe³. What we are doing is not sustainable.

Jurisdictions around the country are awakening to this realization as their correctional budgets soar along with their deficits. "Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia adopted new criminal justice policies—ranging from scaling back mandatory sentencing laws to reforming crack and powder cocaine sentencing disparities to improving parole supervision -- all aimed at reducing prison populations and facilitating successful reentry of ex-offenders, while at the same time, ensuring public safety."⁴

We are proud that Hawai'i's leaders (Governor Abercrombie, Senate President Tsutsui, Speaker Say, Chief Justice Recktenwald, and Interim PSD Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata) have submitted a letter to the Department of Justice asking to be considered for Justice Reinvestment Initiative⁵ technical assistance to 1) Analyze the prison population and spending in the communities to which people in prison often return; 2) Provide policymakers with options to generate savings and increase public safety; 3) Quantify savings and reinvest in select highstakes communities; and 4) Measure the impact and enhance accountability.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana`o with the committee today.

³ Smart Justice Research Paper, *How Hawai'i Can Have Fewer Inmates and Safer Communities*, July 2010, <http://www.ililani-media.com/Smart%20Justice%20Research%20Paper.pdf>

⁴ THE STATE OF SENTENCING 2010 - Developments in policy and practice, Nicole D. Porter, February 2011, <http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/publications/Final%20State%20of%20the%20Sentencing%202010.pdf>

⁵ Justice Reinvestment: <http://www.justicereinvestment.org>.

National Association of Reformed Criminals
Andy Botts & Franklin Jackson
1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815
February 24, 2011

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus r. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Thursday February 24, 2011
10:00 AM
Room 308

HB 130 - RELATING TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

STRONG SUPPORT

Contracting with community based programs is cost-effective in the short and long term, and there is a major backlog of 'Community' status inmates eligible for immediate release on work-furlough. TJ Mahoney has professionally-run state and federal reintegration programs, and I have personally worked with many of the inmates from their program. Passage of this bill would be a sign that the house supports the governor's agenda in that direction, and gives DPS the green light to pursue those plans.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts

February 23, 2011

Dear Representative Marcus Oshiro and Marilyn Lee,

I am writing today in strong support of measure HB 130 Community Reintegration Beds for Women. It is essential to support our improving community members once they are released from sentencing. Often times there is little support for these women which can lead to breaking probation and entering back into the prison system which is bad for keeping finances down in a prison and obviously bad for an individual trying to continue and improve their life.

It is well known that very few people find rehabilitation within prison walls. Assisting and supporting those who reenter is helping to ensure this necessary rehabilitation for success in personal and community living.

Let's stay on the progressive track in Hawaii and support our fellow community members who may need it, despite a prison set back. Everyone deserves a chance to get back on their feet and often times that responsibility lies in the hands of our local government.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Dina Brooks Lloyd, LSW
Lloyd.dina@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI

February 22, 2011

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 24, 2011
10:00 AM
Room 308

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

As an educator and researcher in the field of women and corrections, I urge you to support **HB 130 HD1 – COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION BEDS FOR WOMEN**. Hawaii's population of incarcerated women is largely made up of non-violent offenders whose crimes were committed in relation to drug or alcohol use. Nearly half are classified as "community custody" meaning that their risk level is such that they can be safely supervised by community release programs, furlough, or the like. Their pathways to incarceration were enabled largely because we lack sufficiently-funded substance abuse and mental health treatment in the community. Moreover, my own Hawaii-based research suggests that their needs include lack of housing, poor education, and lack of preparation for the workforce. Prison is the worst possible sort of response to the issues that lead women to criminal offending, particularly for this category of women.

Placing appropriately classified women in community reentry 'beds' is the way to achieve "smart justice" which provides for effective approaches to public safety, rehabilitation, while reducing corrections costs. Additionally, since the majority of these women have family responsibilities, including minor children, their presence in the community provides an opportunity for family reunification as well as addressing other needs. Research shows that treatment works best in the least restrictive environment possible. Community reentry beds for these women are an important part of the Comprehensive Reentry System (SB 932) enacted several years ago but never fully implemented.

Therefore, I urge your strong support for this measure which will strengthen our response to reentry in general as well as provide an effective means of addressing the particular issues of women offenders.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Brown, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Sociology Dept., UH Hilo

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 24, 2011
10:00 AM
Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 130 HD1 – COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION BEDS FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

In the hope you will move quickly to approve this and with the certainty that you have much more educated voices to build a strong foundation of statistics supporting this, I will be brief.

After you look and listen to all the expert testimony, I am appealing to your common sense. This is a practical and common sense solution that renders maximum benefits for our community and society as a whole.

Please help us and pass this important legislation.

With the greatest respect,

Teri Heede

92-994 Kanehoa Loop
Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 672-6312

PETER GELLATLY
PO BOX 88377
HONOLULU, HI 96830

February 23, 2011

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Thursday, Feb 24, 2011
10 am, Room 308

re: HB 130 HD1 – STRONG SUPPORT -- COMMUNITY BEDS FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Gellatly. I am a local businessman representing the Hawaii community on the state's Corrections Population Management Commission.

Our ability to equitably manage our prison system and its costs hinges largely on common sense. Our current practice of keeping local women in prison who do not need to be there flies in the face of such.

Even as it was feeding itself during the Lingle administration, the state's Department of Public Safety stated that nearly half of Hawaii's female inmates are classified as "community custody." In laymen's terms, that means that they pose little threat to you, me and other taxpayers.

When Hawaii cannot pay for basics like education, why in God's name are we spending tens of millions of dollars locking up people who do not need to be locked up?

This bill will let us research how we can save money and families alike. Please pass it.

Thank you and

aloha,

Peter Gellatly

Given by:
Jolene Molinaro
February 24, 2011
Conference Room 308
10:00 A.M.

Testimony in support for H.B. No 130

Good Morning Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee members. My name is Jolene Molinaro and I am a student at UH Manoa in the MSW Program. I wish to give testimony in support of Bill H.B. 130 because I am concerned about the plight of incarcerated women and their children. As a non-violent ex-offender and as a woman, I am a member of a unique and diverse social group who faces its own issues. As many women have become responsible for the total support of their children and families, they are more susceptible now than ever to a variety of new problems. Some of these problems are addiction, crime, and incarceration, often combined with single parenthood. This is what has motivated me in my goal of becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. But my reaching my goal and my education would not be possible without my good fortune of having a great family support network upon my release from prison after my second incarceration.

In 1995 I experienced a difficult divorce and custody battle which lead to major depression and addiction to meth amphetamines I had no family support and without health insurance I was unable to seek therapy services. As you know, this drug is extremely addictive and so I quickly headed down the path of my destruction. I was eventually arrested and charged with possession and promotion of a dangerous drug in the 3rd degree as well as for paraphernalia. During my incarceration I completed a drug treatment program inside the prison and was paroled after 2 1/2 years. However, I had no options for housing other than the area I had come from due to lack of an appropriate sponsor to parole to, so I chose to parole to a friend who I knew was using drugs. I had every intention to do well and I was excited about the possibilities of a new start, However, I was not prepared for the difficulties an ex-offender faces in reintegrating back into society such as obtaining employment and appropriate housing. which is necessary if you are to meet the conditions of parole and provide for yourself and your family. I also was not prepared for the stigmatism I experienced while searching for employment. It was a very stressful and emotional time for me. While I knew that I was the only person responsible for my situation, I could not help but wonder how women like me were supposed to "go forth and do well" from then on if we didn't at least have

the opportunity to do so.

I managed to stay clean even while I lived in a drug abusing household, but I could not find a job. I began to become discouraged, desperate and angry.

Eventually I was eventually rearrested for theft. This mistake, made out of desperation, cost me my freedom, my children and it contributed to the stigma by making me a reoffender. I feel a strong post-prison support network would have helped prevent me from reoffending and it could benefit the hundreds of non-violent ex-offending women in Hawaii. If the women had access to professionals to assist with mental health, family reunification, housing assistance and employment support and educational opportunities I am positive the recidivism rate would drop significantly, saving the state the cost of housing reoffenders and parole violators. I know in my case I would not have re-offended if I had access to the support of professional helpers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Jolene Molinaro

PAGE 1

PAGE 1

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 24, 2011
10:00 AM
Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 130 HD1 – COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION BEDS FOR WOMEN

Hello Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the committee,

My name is Cathy Tilley and my son is an inmate at Saguaro Correctional Facility. I strongly support HB130 that would provide beds for women who are reintegrating into our communities. Studies have shown any inmate who has a transition time and support has a much better chance of staying out of prison. It is not easy to fit back into society and any help they get will benefit all. It is much more cost effective to help women with programs and a place to stay than to house them in prison. Many of these women have children and the sooner they are back with the children and in programs that will help them learn parenting skills the less likely it will be that these children will end up in prison themselves. We need to help break the cycle of children of inmates ending up as inmates themselves.

Sincerely,
Cathy Tilley
621 Pauku ST
Kailua, HI
96734

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB130 on 2/24/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2011 10:00:00 AM HB130

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorothy Cornell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 24, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Strong Support

HB130 HD1 Requiring the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for **reintegration into the community and contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community.**

This measure would go a long way towards achieving true justice for the non-violent female offenders in our State. Rehabilitation for our women prisoners is only a word that has no substance, as the current system is gender-biased and aimed at warehousing at best and vengeance at worst.

Sadly the facts speak for themselves.

Hawai'i has achieved the dubious distinction of having one of the fastest rising female incarcerated populations in the nation. Our female imprisoned population rose by **89%** from January 1, 2001 (403) to June 30, 2008 (760).

A classification study, commissioned by the Department of Public Safety, revealed that the majority of our incarcerated women are **nonviolent (84%) and imprisoned for drugs or drug related crimes.**

Almost **half (48%) of our incarcerated women** are classified as **community custody**, which is defined by the department as "Individuals who are eligible to participate in community release programs such as work furlough, extended furlough or residential transitional living facilities."

It is not only the humane and right thing to do to put these low-risk women prisoners into programs that more appropriately address their needs, it also makes economic sense.

Currently according to the Department of Safety, it costs \$137 per day to incarcerate an individual in Hawai'i. So, it is costing taxpayers over **\$12 million a year to incarcerate 250 women** who could be in the community, according to the department's own definition. **Transferring the money from corrections to community reintegration beds** is wiser than the current practice.

Let's help these women transition back to the community and reunify with their families. Let's truly rehabilitate women who break the law by addressing their needs and by helping them learn how to live more pro-social and fulfilling lives. Let's help these women, many of whom have been mothers since their teens. Let's break the cycle of recidivism and give them the help they need to live in society. Please! Fund the establishment of community-based gender responsive programs that can help women chart a more positive course for their lives as well for the lives of their children.

Finally, We thank Hawai'i's leaders (Governor Abercrombie, Senate President Tsutsui, Speaker Say, Chief Justice Recktenwald, and Interim PSD Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata) who have submitted a letter to the Department of Justice asking to be considered for Justice Reinvestment Initiative technical assistance to:

- 1) Analyze the prison population and spending in the communities to which people in prison often return
- 2) Provide policymakers with options to generate savings and increase public safety
- 3) Quantify savings and reinvest in select high stakes communities
- 4) Measure the impact and enhance accountability

Please fund this legislation and move the effective date back to at least 2012.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Mililani, Hawai'i

808-623-5676