

SB 1517

RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Directs DPS to prepare preliminary design and request for proposals for the design, development, and operation of a correctional treatment facility and to consider the undeveloped portion on the existing Halawa correctional facility as a possible site for the facility. Appropriates funds.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

JODIE MAESAKA-HIRATA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director
Administration

Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1517
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

by
**Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Interim Director
Department of Public Safety**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 15, 2011; 2:45PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of SB 1517 since the PSD has a well defined need to build correctional facilities to provide for the custodial care and program needs of offenders.

PSD is willing to initiate the planning and design process to develop Correctional Facilities based on the custody and operational needs of all offenders, however PSD presently has various plans and designs already in place.

All PSD correctional facilities provide for the various program needs to the offenders who reside therein. Programs for chemical dependency and mental health problems are a component of an overall strategy for the treatment needs of the psychological and social disorders of offenders. An institution focusing entirely on the treatment of chemical dependency and mental health problems would not be required. It

would be prudent to incorporate those treatment functions within the overall design of an institution as specific units with a precise focus. The actual numbers of offenders requiring chemical dependency and mental health treatment would not require a secured twelve hundred bed facility specifically focusing on those two treatment modalities.

For these reasons PSD respectfully requests this measure be held.

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

National Association of Reformed Criminals

Andy Botts

1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 15, 2011

2:45 PM

Room 224

SB 1517 RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

OPPOSE

The problem that we are faced with now is a result of the construction of OCCC. In 1972, Legislatures were sold on this same-worded plan. OCCC was supposed to be a community correctional center with emphasis on non-prison programs. However, when the doors opened in 1980 it filled up immediately – and then doubled, tripled, quadrupled, etc, etc, etc, until the population multiplied 12-fold from 500 to 6000. We couldn't afford it then – and we can't afford it again – especially now. Our own history should be a lesson that this expensive proposal won't reduce the numbers or is it a solution. Even though I am firmly against sending our prisoners and tax money to the mainland, it is still a better bet than repeating the same mistake over again and expecting different results.

Our focus would be better spent on private non-prison half-way houses, to save lives and money.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts