

# **SB 230**

## **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.

February 11, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & MILIARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: SB 230 Community Reintegration Beds for Women

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

As an educator and researcher in the field of women and corrections, I urge you to support SB 230. 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. 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

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Saturday February 12, 2011

Room 229

10:00 a.m.

**SB 230 - STRONG SUPPORT for Community Reintegration Beds for Women**

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

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani 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 a disproportionate Native Hawaiians.

SB 230 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 study<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup> as "*Individuals who are eligible to participate in community release programs such as work furlough, extended furlough or residential transitional living facilities*".

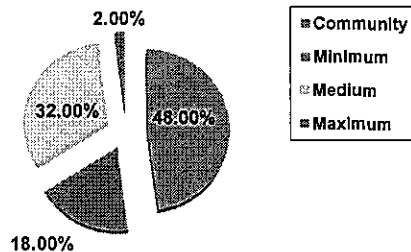
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<sup>1</sup> Classification - A Systematic Approach for Correctional Management, Camille Camp, Patricia Hardyman, Ph.D., Presentation to Hawai'i State Legislature, January 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Public Safety 2008 Annual Report, Inmate Classification Office, page 18.

The following chart illustrates the findings of the Classification study.

### Female Incarcerated Population



Based on the female imprisoned population, as reported in the Department of Public Safety's 2008 Annual Report, 365 of our incarcerated women are community custody. If 250 of these women were deemed to pose little to no threat to public safety, wouldn't it be better to fund programs that more appropriately address their needs and help them transition back to the community and reunify with their families?

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. Many of our incarcerated women have been having children since their teens. They need help navigating their way back into the free world, which is why this bill is so very important.

Community based gender responsive reintegration programs help women chart more positive courses for their lives as well for the lives of their children.

Community-based gender responsive reintegration programs provide, structure, monitoring, and accountability to help women 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. These programs actually enhance public safety.

Since women's pathways to crime are different than men's, it is important that gender responsive community-based reintegration programs be adequately funded to reduce recidivism. These programs more directly affect the needs of women in the criminal processing system. Creating a network of these programs can facilitate contact with their children and help families 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 that will help future generations. Let's break the negative cycle of inter-generational incarceration.

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 timeframe. 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. Many are repealing mandatory minimum sentencing, working on alternative sentencing, releasing nonviolent, low-level drug offenders to reduce their imprisoned populations caused by the failed war on drugs.

Nationwide, state spending on corrections has risen faster in the 20 years from 1988 to 2008 than spending on nearly any other state budget item – increasing from about \$12 billion to \$52 billion a year.<sup>3</sup>

Most states are taking an expensive, unsuccessful, and unsustainable approach to prison and corrections policies. Any real effort to contain spending on corrections must have as its centerpiece a plan to limit the growth of, or reduce, the prison population. Unless policymakers act, state spending on corrections is projected to continue to increase.<sup>4</sup>

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 Initiative<sup>5</sup> technical assistance to: 1) Analyze data; 2) Adopt policies; and 3) Measure performance.

It is indeed a new day in Hawai'i when our leaders express interest in developing data driven public policies! Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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<sup>3</sup> National Association of State Budget Officers, Fiscal Year 1988 State Expenditure Report, p. 71 (Washington, DC: National Association of State Budget Officers, 1989), <http://www.nasbo.org/Publications/StateExpenditureReport/StateExpenditureReportArchives/tabid/107/Default.aspx>. National Association of State Budget Officers, Fiscal Year 2008 State Expenditure Report, p. 54 (Washington, DC: National Association of State Budget Officers, 2009), <http://www.nasbo.org/Publications/StateExpenditureReport/tabid/79/Default.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> National Association of State Budget Officers, Fiscal Year 2008 State Expenditure Report, p. 54 (Washington, DC: National Association of State Budget Officers, 2009), <http://www.nasbo.org/Publications/StateExpenditureReport/tabid/79/Default.aspx>. Public Safety Performance Project, Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population 2007-2011 (Washington, DC: Public Safety Performance Project, The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2007).

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

# TJ MAHONEY & ASSOCIATES

## Ka Hale Ho`āla 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](http://www.reawakeningforwomen.org)

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### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
DATE, TIME Saturday February 12, 2011, 10:00 A.M.  
PLACE Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
COPIES 45 copies

**Re: SB 230 - STRONG SUPPORT for Community Reintegration Beds for Women**

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 SB 230. We all benefit from safer communities. Please support this most important piece of legislation.



the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
o f h a w a i ' i

February 12, 2011

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

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB 230 Relating to Community Reintegration  
Hearing: Saturday, February 12, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Room 229

Position: Support

Good morning Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee, I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i testifying in support of this measure.

SB 230 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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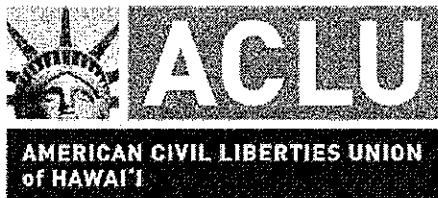
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fulfilling lives. They provide the solid foundation that is crucial when these women reenter the community by providing the necessary support through effective programming to address the woman's specific needs.

We urge the committee to pass SB 230. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





Committee: Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Saturday, February 12, 2011, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Room 229  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 230,  
Relating to Community Reintegration

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of S.B. 230, Relating to Community Integration

The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to reduce overincarceration and develop a comprehensive reintegration system. In furtherance of those goals, we support legislation like S.B. 230 that seeks to identify women who are eligible for reintegration and contract with gender-responsive community services providers to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie Temple  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808.522-5900  
F: 808.522-5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

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

Saturday February 12, 2011

10:00 AM

Room 229

**SB 230 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION**

**STRONG SUPPORT**

NARC supports any and all avenues of community reintegration as opposed to warehousing for profit. It's cheaper and could be self-sufficient, while being far more productive than Public Safety's 'lock 'em up' policy of the past 3 decades. Hawaii's inmate population has multiplied 12-fold since 1976, when mandatory sentencing began. However, community reintegration programs haven't kept pace, nor even close, although the Legislative intent of the 1972 Correctional Master Plan was to focus on non-prison programs.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts

To: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

From: Laura Robertson, President and CEO  
Edwina Minglana, Director of Employment Services  
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: February 10, 2011

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 230 – Relating To Community Reintegration

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. (Goodwill) is among the largest human service non-profit organizations in Hawaii. Our mission is to help people find and succeed in employment. Last year, we served over 13,000 people statewide and placed 1,667 people into jobs in our community; serving 1,290 previously or currently incarcerated individuals. Goodwill has fifty (50) years of experience assisting people who have employment barriers find jobs and gain self-sufficiency. Our Job Connections Program on Oahu primarily assists women offenders referred by work furloughs such as Project Bridge and TJ Mahoney.

Goodwill submits this testimony in support of S.B. 230 which urges 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. Specialized reintegration services are needed to address the identified problem areas of women offenders as they transition back into the community. In our experience, women offenders come with a host of complex personal issues such as a history of sexual abuse. Many of these individuals need to obtain employment, housing, and continue treatment for substance abuse issues so they can re-unite with their children and families. A significant percentage (70%) of the female offenders Goodwill served last year had children under the age of 18 waiting for them to come home.

The needs of women offender differ in many respects — physically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially — from those of their male counterparts. Studies show that community reintegration programs have a higher success rate when the atmosphere is less confrontational and female counselors are present. The implementation of rehabilitation programs specifically designed with those differences in mind can effectively address the needs of female inmates and identify factors which may impede their ability to succeed post-release. Without experienced community-based providers such as Goodwill, the integration of women offenders back into the free world may not be as safe and successful.

We humbly ask for your support of S.B. 230.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this important bill.

Given by:

Jolene Molinaro

February 12, 2011

Conference Room 229

10:00 A.M.

### **Testimony in support for S.B. No 230**

Good Morning Senator Espero and Senator Kidani and P. G. M. 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 S.B. 230 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

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Saturday February 12, 2011  
10:00Am Room 229  
SB230  
PGMTestimony@capitol.gov  
Strong Support

Hello Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee,

My Name is Cathy Tilley an I strongly support SB230 that requires the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the community and contract with the providers of gender responsive community services to assist these women in successful transition back onto the community. Because there are so many of the women inmates who are nonviolent and in prison for drug related crimes and are classified community custody we should make every effort to get these women into programs that will help them transition back into our communities, give them the skills to function as productive adults . Many of these women have never been taught life skills. Programs can do for these women what prison can't. I was there several years ago when my friends daughter was released from prison with no reintegration plan. If I had not been there she would have been lost and probably would have end up right back in prison. We must give these women a better chance to survive in the real world.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Tilley  
621 Pauku St  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From: Renee Schuetter, RN, M. Ed.  
Executive Director  
The Path Clinic  
845 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
734-2034**

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPS & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Saturday February 12, 2011  
Room 229  
10:00 a.m.

**SB 230 - STRONG SUPPORT for Community Reintegration Beds for Women**

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee!

My name is Renee Schuetter and I strongly support this bill. It is cost-effective – in the short and long term. It invests in the women, children and families of Hawaii; and therefore, in the future of Hawaii. Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this important matter.

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**From:** Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 3:07 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 230 Strong support for reintegration of women offenders into the community

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPS & MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Saturday February 12, 2011  
Room 229, 10:00 a.m.

SB 230 - STRONG SUPPORT for Community Reintegration Beds for Women

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members,

We are in strong support of this important bill. The current system does little to rehabilitate women offenders the vast majority of whom are incarcerated for non-violent and drug-related crime.

As others have testified, 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 to June 30, 2008. A classification study, commissioned by the Department of Public Safety, revealed that 84% of our incarcerated women are nonviolent and imprisoned for drugs or drug-related crimes. Almost half 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".

The current system is unproductive and very costly to the taxpayer.

We urge you to correct this costly injustice and applaud you for the provision that would require public safety to "contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community."

Mahalo for allowing me to testify,

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

Mililani, Hawai'i  
808-623-5676



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** c\_pomponio@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB230 on 2/12/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PGM 2/12/2011 9:00:00 AM SB230

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cathleen Pomponio, MS ISU 1985  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: 8084572914  
E-mail: [c\\_pomponio@yahoo.com](mailto:c_pomponio@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:  
SB 803

My comments are as follows: I feel both sympathetic towards this population group and at the same time I have a difficult time to approve of the entire measure and here are my reasons: I had a serious cardio-vascular incident and needed to rest from the daily grind of work and taking care of an apartment. To that end, I moved myself to the YWCA Fernhurst, not realizing that it houses the many female parolees of the Honolulu Prison system. It also offers housing for women from outer islands coming into Oahu for health care at Kapiolani Women's Medical Center; it also rents to women travelling; as well as low cost rentals for the back-packers and hikers of the world. While there, the various released inmates created many disturbances; I was nearly attacked several times, they robbed other women taking a handbag from a female resident from Texas; they fought over dinner and I felt I had to volunteer to apportion dinner correctly to avoid disputes. They 'utilized' the computer room, set up for the use of residents to secure apartments and jobs for themselves, by uploading pornography and otherwise breaking the equipment, and fought over trivial items such as television even though the handicapped wanted to watch somethings as well.

I have this basic criticism because my own family could be a template for abuse - it was so bad, that I needed nearly ten years of therapy just to be able to remember some of it. Though I came from this background, my life is quite different: I do not abuse alcohol and never have, I do not take drugs and have no addiction problems; I made myself attend College and Two Universities and graduated on the Deans List at Dominican; I worked as a Volunteer Peace Corp and continue to strive to serve the community. I search for work and cannot find anything to do; yet I look around me, and see criminal behavior everywhere - a secretary who embezzles \$69,000 from her employer goes to jail gets out and finds another job; a woman steals \$93,000 from a trust fund in a bank and is sympathetically treated; my current address is a unit in a so-called rough neighborhood; why is it 'rough', because many of my fellow tenants are on parole. The police have been called several times to settle disputes between neighbors who do not know how to behave. Women steal small petty items from one another, and so on and so on. Society's issues are extremely difficult to solve, but we seem to be more and more entrapped into serving people who take no responsibility for their own behavior. I don't advocate continuous punishment for lawbreakers and I have been called to testify in a men's prison

for a client of the City while employed by them. I don't know if there is a so-called answer, but I would like a little something from the world as well, without having to prove my race, ethnicity, orientation or whatever is current.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 12:21 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** theede@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB230 on 2/12/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for PGM 2/12/2011 10:00:00 AM SB230

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Teri Heede  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 92-994 Kanehoa Loop Kapolei, HI  
Phone: 8086726312  
E-mail: [theede@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:theede@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:  
Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support for Community Reintegration beds for women.

This is a common-sense solution to a very complicated problem. It is time we addressed the problems that can help them transition successfully into the community assuming their roles as mothers, sisters, aunties and strong contributing members of society.

This type of solution breaks the cycle of re-incarceration and further societal issues associated when that happens.

You will read a lot of testimony with stats and important data. As a mother, grandmother, sister and cousin I ask you to insure women a measure of success with proper reintegration.

Mahalo and Bless You for hearing this very important issue, Teri Heede

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 2:10 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB230 on 2/12/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for PGM 2/12/2011 10:00:00 AM SB230

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dorothy Cornell  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com](mailto:HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments: