

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 44 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

by

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

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2011, 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports this measure and appreciates that Senate Bill 44 SD1 allows us to combine multiple reports into one comprehensive annual report that contains information the Legislature requests on a regular basis. There is one key performance indicator referenced in the measure that PSD would have difficulty reporting, the number of parole revocation hearings and the results of parole revocations that are denied. These hearings are conducted and the records maintained by the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), which is administratively attached to PSD, but is a separate entity. We ask that this one key performance indicator be deleted from this measure for the PSD annual report because all the data on that indicator is maintained by HPA instead.

PSD supports this measure with our request for the one amendment.

Senate Bill 44 SD1
March 17, 2011
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Thank you for this opportunity to testify and we ask that this bill be amended as requested.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 309

SB 44 –Rehabilitation, Reentry, Performance Indicators

STRONG SUPPORT

www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for our incarcerated individuals, enhance the quality of justice, and promote public safety by supporting smart justice policies. We testify today always mindful of the 6,000 individuals whose voices have been silenced by incarceration, always that almost 1,800 of those individuals are serving their sentences thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones – and for the majority of those shipped abroad – far from their ancestral lands.

SB 44 SD1 requires the department of public safety to establish performance indicators for inmate reentry system and requires reports, using key performance indicators, to be provided to the legislature. Creates the corrections and program report as a consolidated report of certain other annual reports.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. We support consolidating the reports and using performance indicators throughout the department's reporting.

Every business that wants to succeed sets some measurement or evaluation for positive outcomes. By tracking not just the programs, but the success rate of participants, it is easier to gauge success and facilitate improvements and course corrections can be thoughtfully planned using performance indicators.

A report from the Pew Center recommends developing performance measures that matter.

<http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/GPP.PSPPFinal.pdf>

Meaningful performance measures, including authentic outcome data, are helping state corrections managers and policy makers make better decisions.

A number of states have begun implementing the uniform performance measures developed by the Association of State Corrections Administrators (ASCA), which has standardized the definitions of key measures. Begun with just six states (Washington, Ohio, Iowa, Louisiana, South Carolina and Pennsylvania), this effort now includes reporting from 36 jurisdictions on a variety of output and outcome measures.

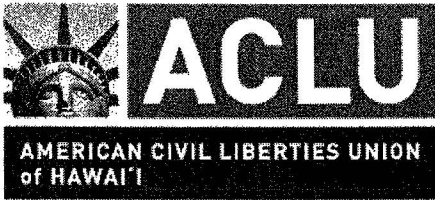
Uniform measures help the field define its standards of performance, compare among jurisdictions and track progress. Measures gauge institutional and public safety, through variables such as assaults on staff and recidivism; substance abuse; mental health and academic assistance, through variables such as needs assessment, programming, and participation and completion rates; and contextual information, including offender profiles.

More innovative states have begun to use outcome measures that judge the effect of policies on inmates in order to inform funding decisions.

Community Alliance on Prisons believes that this type of tracking will improve the quality of justice in Hawai'i, save money, and further the outcomes we all desire – safe and healthy communities.

We also hope that you change the effective date to 'upon approval' since this type of reporting will not only help the department determine how they are doing, but will make it more clear for the legislature to determine the effectiveness of the policies they pass.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important bill.



Committee: Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 17, 2011, 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 44, SD1,
Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of S.B. 44, SD1, Relating to Public Safety, which seeks to require the Department of Public Safety to establish performance indicators for inmate reentry.

Requiring performance indicators will help to ensure that the Department of Public Safety is held accountable for implementing and managing reentry programs, and will ultimately ensure that Hawaii's inmates are successfully reintegrated into the community. S.B. 44, SD1, will also help to ensure that our limited resources are being spent effectively and efficiently.

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,

Daniel M. Gluck
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

March 17, 2011

To: Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 44 SD1 Relating to Public Safety (Performance Indicators)
Hearing: March 17, 2011, 8:30 a.m., Conf. Room 309

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii writes in strong support of this measure.

SB 44 SD1 requires the Department of Public Safety to establish performance indicators for inmate reentry system and requires reports, using key performance indicators to be provided to the legislature.

Businesses measure performance against established goals to determine how well the business has done and if goals are not met, what needs to be changed to achieve those goals. In the same way, performance indicators will provide a basis to evaluate the progress of the Department of Public Safety in preparing individuals to reenter the community.

The concept is not to just track programs, but to measure the success rate of participants to determine if the programs are effective. It is also important for the legislature to know whether policy decisions have been effective and whether taxpayer money has been put to good use or not.

Performance indicators will assist in evaluating the efficacy of programs and will also assist in keeping the relevant agencies accountable for their performance.

We urge you to pass this measure out of committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony .

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT

SB 44 SD1 –INMATE REHABILITATION; REENTRY SYSTEM; PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen,

I am in strong support of SB44. Rehabilitating offenders must be the prime job of any public safety program. If prisoners are sitting idle, waiting to enter into programs only several years before their release date, what goal is being accomplished? It is purely a waste of taxpayer money, and the offender's, and the offender's family's life.

Just as a hospital focuses on healing patient's physical maladies, a public safety facility should focus on healing inmate's socio/emotional/occupational maladies. The goal of prison should be to help people turn their lives around. There has been no empirical evidence showing that punishing people for extended periods of time makes them less inclined to commit crimes -- often it has the opposite effect. And again, it is a shameful waste of the tax-payer's scarce dollars.

Re-entry programs should include performance indicators just like any tax-payer funded expenditure. Bottom line: does it make inmates less likely to commit crimes? Does it help offenders re-enter society with the tools to succeed and live a crime-free, substance-abuse free life? Ultimately, does it make the public safer.

I respectfully request that you pass SB 44 SD1.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony.

Netra Halperin, M.A. (psychology)

Kihei, HI

(808) 359-1673

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 7:51 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB44 on 3/17/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/17/2011 8:30:00 AM SB44

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: E. Funakoshi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

Comments:

I submitted my written testimony to the PGM committee on 1/27/11 and my position to strongly support SB44 still stands.

Please assure that this measure would give points for good behavior. It would give the inmates a goal to achieve and motivate them to behave better.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:42 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: maucrowe@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB44 on 3/17/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/17/2011 8:30:00 AM SB44

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Crowe
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: maucrowe@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/16/2011

Comments:

Using performance indicators for reentry will enhance correct decision making for each inmate considered. This is vital for increasing public safety.