

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1650
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

by
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Interim 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, February 17, 2011; 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of HB 1650 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 request that any bills relating to the development of new correctional facilities be consolidated into one measure that would address master planning for new or the expansion of existing correctional facilities. Presently, PSD already has various plans and designs 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. A correctional 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 1,200 bed facility specifically focusing on those 2 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 & Franklin Jackson
1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815
February 17, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

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HB 1650 RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

OPPOSE

We don't have the time or money even if this proposal was feasible. 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