

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR



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

**JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA**  
DIRECTOR

**MARTHA TORNEY**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Deputy Director  
Corrections

**KEITH KAMITA**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 665  
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**

by

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

**Committee on Public Safety & 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) appreciates the Legislature's interest in the pregnancy related data of the women in our custody.

PSD through its Health Care Division, provides community standard prenatal care for each pregnant woman. All applicable tests, procedures, and physician visits are provided on a timely basis to ensure that the health of the baby and mother is uncompromised throughout the pregnancy and that the delivery is without complications.

PSD would be happy to share the requested statistical data as an annual report, with the Legislature, but feels enacting legislation to provide this annual report is unnecessary.

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

# 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 & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Room 309

9:00 a.m.

### **HB 665 – Annual Reporting of Pregnancy Data to Legislature SUPPORT**

<http://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 on prison reform and 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 with almost 1,800 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones and homes – their ancestral home for a disproportionate number.

HB 665 requires the Department of Public Safety to make annual reports to the legislature regarding various pregnancy related data.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. The collection and reporting of data is crucial to improving a system.

We believe that Hawai'i received such a low grade in the recent report entitled *Mothers Behind Bars: A state-by-state report card and analysis of federal policies on conditions of confinement for pregnant and parenting women and the effect on their children* released by The Rebecca Project for Human Rights and the National Women's Law Center is the failure to collect and report data.

Community Alliance on Prisons applauds the Abercrombie administration for promoting openness, accountability, and transparency.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Committee: Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 17, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 665,  
Relating to Corrections

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) urges you to support H.B. 665, which requires the department of public safety to make annual reports to the legislature regarding various pregnancy related data.

Hawaii received an F grade in prenatal care and a D grade for its shackling policies in an October, 2010 report issued by The Rebecca Project for Human Rights and the National Women’s Law Center entitled *Mothers Behind Bars: A State-By-State Report Card and Analysis of Federal Policies on Conditions of Confinement for Pregnant and Parenting Women and the Effect on Their Children*. Requiring the Department of Public Safety to report to the Legislature on its treatment of pregnant women will allow Hawaii to reevaluate the policies that led to the dismal grades in the report and adopt policies that meet the needs of incarcerated pregnant women.

H.B. 665 presents Hawaii with an opportunity to become a national leader in supporting pregnant women. This bill demonstrates our state’s commitment to supporting healthy pregnancies for all of Hawaii’s women and we strongly urge your support.

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 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laurie A. Temple  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801  
T: 808.522-5900  
F: 808.522-5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)