

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2253 (SSCR 2689)
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

BY

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Bert Y. Matsuoka, Chairman

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) appreciates the legislature's interest in establishing a 2-year pilot program within the HPA for high-risk offenders. The HPA does not support this measure.

It is important to note that probation and parole are inherently different. Additionally, the authority of Judges differs from the parole board. The respective hearings each entity conducts are also different. Also, the organizational structure and statutory authority of the Judiciary are considerably different from that of the HPA.

The HPA now operates a high-intensity parole supervision unit for high-risk offenders known as the Intensive Supervision Parole (ISP) Unit that is part of the part of the Special Services Section. The ISP staff closely supervises and monitors approximately 45 high-risk offenders. Offenders assigned to the ISP Unit are seen by their parole officer up to twice weekly, undergo frequent and unannounced drug testing, are visited at their place of work and residence, and have strict curfew restrictions.

The parole officers work with these offenders, their employers, and family members in the community to prevent parole revocations by utilizing motivational interviewing techniques, appropriate referral for community-based services, counseling, and immediately addressing alleged parole violations. With the approval of their immediate supervisor, parole officers make necessary adjustments to the level of supervision, require parolees to complete and submit thinking errors reports to discuss, and impose sanctions on parolees to immediately and effectively address failures to abide by the terms and conditions of parole.

Parolees are all convicted felons who have completed various terms of prison incarceration, while probationers may have completed short-terms jail sentences. It should also be noted that convicted felons on parole face inherently more obstacles to successful re-integration into the community than probationers. Thus, parolees require a greater degree supervision, counseling and services, which they are provided.

In addition, utilizing current practices, the HPA has met the goal of Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) to reduce the adult recidivism rate by 30%. The HPA has reduced recidivism rate of the parole population by 33.6%.

Given that the HPA currently operates a high-intensity parole supervision unit that provides close supervision, monitoring, counseling, and community-based services to the parolees assigned to that unit, coupled with HPA's success at reducing the recidivism rate of parolees, the HPA does not support this measure.

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



SB2253
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS
House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

March 21, 2012

11:00 a.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB2253, which establishes a two-year parole pilot program based on the HOPE probation program.

OHA's 2010 report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," feedback from the community, and research from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative indicate that Hawai'i is in dire need of smarter programs that rehabilitate pa`ahao and make our communities safer. Extending the innovation of HOPE probation into the world of parole will help to accomplish these goals.

OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2253. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday March 21, 2012

11:00 a.m.

Room 309

SUPPORT FOR SB 2253 - HOPE PAROLE

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

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered, always being mindful that 6,000 Hawai'i individuals are living behind bars, including 1,800 men who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2253 establishes a two-year parole pilot program for no more than twenty inmates to be subject to high-intensity parole supervision. Makes an appropriation for the program.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure in the hope (pun intended!) that Hawai'i can experience similar outcomes to the HOPE probation program. Of course, we have yet to see if the HOPE effect is persistent when individuals are no longer part of the program, but we remain open to trying new and innovative ways to gain compliance of individuals who have broken the law and are consistently non-compliant.

There are, however, some things we would like to mention to the committee:

1. The Hawai'i Paroling Authority is its own agency that is administratively attached to PSD, so the bill should reflect that.
2. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative addresses the length of parole and one of our concerns about HOPE Probation is that after some violations, the person is sent to prison to serve their entire sentence. This seems to be contrary to the suggestions of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.
3. Special parole officers would have to be trained in the HOPE-style, this would require funding and the hiring of new parole officers to handle their current workload, which is twice that of other jurisdictions.

We thank the committees for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify!



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS: Representative Henry Aquino, Chair

Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

📅 Wednesday, March 21, 2012

🕒 11:00 a.m.

📍 Room 309

HSAC SUPPORT SB 2253 – 2 year parole pilot program to provide high intensity supervision

Aloha Chair Representative Aquino and Vice Chair Representative Cullen, and Distinguished Members of the Committees! My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, a hui of about 20 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB2253 that establishes a two-year parole pilot program for no more than twenty inmates to be subject to high-intensity parole supervision, i.e. HOPE Parole and makes an appropriation for the program. We are mindful of HOPE's success with probation and interested in examining potential results.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.