

SB 2253

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Description:

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.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA
CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
MEMBER

MICHAEL A. TOWN
MEMBER

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 2253
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Bert Y. Matsuoka, Chairman

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

AND

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 31, 2011; 2:45p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chair Espero, Chair Hee, and Members of both Committees:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) appreciates the legislature's interest in establishing a 2-year pilot program within the HPA for high-risk offenders.

It is important to note that probation and parole are inherently different. Additionally, the authority of Judges differ from the parole board. And the respective hearings each entity conducts are also different.

It should be noted that the organizational structure and statutory authority of the Judiciary is considerably different than that of the HPA. The HPA is however, willing to further review and study this matter in an effort to determine the feasibility, viability, and necessity for a pilot program.

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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phones/E-Mail: (808) 533-3454, (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

SUPPORT SB 2253 - HOPE PAROLE

Aloha Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees!

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, i.e. HOPE Parole and 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!



Committee: Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Committee on Judiciary on Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2253, Relating to Corrections

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs, and Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The ACLU of Hawaii generally supports S.B. 2253 and the other proposals submitted as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to develop programs that are more cost-efficient and more effective at reducing recidivism than incarceration. Every effort should be made to provide Hawaii's inmates with the support and services they need to become productive and responsible community members.

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 A. 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
www.acluhawaii.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:36 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for SB2253 on 1/31/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM/JDL 1/31/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2253

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: elaine funakoshi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Chairs Espero & Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani & Shimabukuro and committee members:

This program has been highly touted and recognized by other states.

It would help those who cannot turn themselves around some tools to help them stay on track and break their pattern.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.