

SB2355

Directs the director of public safety, in collaboration with the department of planning and permitting of the city and county of Honolulu, to make plans to utilize a public-private partnership to develop additional incarceration space at the Halawa correctional facility and for transit-oriented development near Oahu community correctional center. Report to the legislature.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2355
RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT
by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

Chairs Dela Cruz and Espero, Vice Chairs Solomon and Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the concept of public/private partnerships, we have concerns about Senate Bill 2355, relating to development, at this time. This measure requires the State, in partnership with the City and County of Honolulu, to develop plans for a private entity to develop additional prison space at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) at no cost to the State in exchange for making available state-owned land near the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) for development as a transit-oriented zone. We believe the proposed intergovernmental planning process is attempting to achieve unrelated and divergent goals in a very short period of time as the final report is due to the Legislature December 2012.

The idea of making State-owned land available for private development in exchange for constructing a correctional facility has been considered before. Over the past two

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decades there have been some discussions about relocating OCCC to make the Dillingham property available for a more advantageous public use. In 2001 plans were considered for consolidating OCCC and HCF at the Halawa Valley site through a public-private venture similar to what is proposed but the project proved to be too costly. In addition, such development would face some roadblocks including the lack of additional State land available, lack of infrastructure to support expanded capacity, and the impact of continuous blasting at the nearby rock quarry.

The 2011 Legislature appropriated funds for the "orderly development of correctional facilities statewide." The relocation of OCCC will be considered in this plan. Should that prove feasible, we most certainly would be interested in discussing with the County the possibility of a private-public venture that would benefit all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.