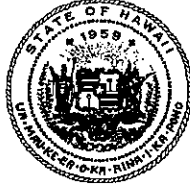


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
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Deputy Director
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Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON Senate Bill 2866 SD1
RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM
by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports Senate Bill (SB) 2866 SD1, and its amendments to modify Section 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which creates a centralized Offender Reentry Office to oversee and monitor reentry functions and delete references to offender reentry responsibilities from Section 353-10, HRS. The Offender Reentry Office will specialize in designing, monitoring, and evaluating programs and services to reduce recidivism, prevent further victimization, and enhance public safety.

The Offender Reentry Office staff works with and assists departmental staff and community providers to prepare sentenced offenders transitioning to the community through programs and activities that best reflect evidence-based programming for inmates. A variety of programs and services are essential during

an offender's transition to the community. These services target risk-need assessments, criminogenic areas, vocational preparedness, victim services, and quality assurance. As a result of these programs and services an offender transitioning to the community from a correctional center/facility will acquire the appropriate skills and treatment to reenter the community and reduce recidivism.

In conclusion, PSD strongly supports the passage of SB 2866 SD1, which would centralize reentry functions in the Department. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Committee: Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 11:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 2866, S.D.1, Relating to Comprehensive Offender Reentry System

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

The ACLU of Hawaii supports S.B. 2866, S.D.1 and every effort to develop programs and policies 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

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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 2866 SD1 – COMPREHENSIVE REENTRY SYSTEM

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 2866 SD1 establishes the Offender Reentry Office within the Department of Public Safety to address the goals of chapter 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It reconstitutes the reentry commission under Act 24, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, with the added duty to ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system is implemented as soon as practicable. Extends sunset of reentry commission to 12/1/2015.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. Reentry assistance is crucial to prevent recidivism and the community plays a vital role in the successful transition of an individual from institutional to community life.

We strongly support a Reentry Commission that is inclusive of the businesses, churches, community organizations, people formerly incarcerated and concerned citizens.

We respectfully point out that Section 4, line 15 should read:

“SECTION 3. (a) Effective *January 1, 2013* or *July 1, 2012*, not *January 1, 2010*.

Mahalo for this 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 2866 – Offender Reentry Office and Reconstitute Reentry Commission

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 SB2866 because a centralized office that provides key assessments is best practices that will improve outcomes, reduce recidivism and save money. A centralized system of reentry assessments and referrals is a comprehensive way of using best practices that is supported by volumes of studies and backed by experiences in other states.

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