

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

JOE W. BOOKER, JR.
Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

April 10, 2012

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**WRITTEN
COMMENTS
ONLY**

FROM: Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director *Jodie Maesaka-Hirata*

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 SD1: Requesting the Department of Public Safety to Reinvest Funds Originally Intended for Incarceration into Structured Community Placement Programs for Eligible Non-Violent Female Offenders

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 SD 1 that seeks to reinvest the funds for incarceration to structured community placement programs for eligible non-violent female offenders. Any cost savings would only result from the reduction of inmates held in contract beds. Presently, there are no female inmates held in mainland correctional facilities, but 66 female jail inmates at the Federal Detention Center.

PSD currently has a contract with T.J. Mahoney & Associates, Ka Hale Hoala Hou No Na Wahine Residential Program that provides transitional beds for up to 30 female inmates. At present, there are 26 female inmates on work furlough status who are participating in that program which is utilizing this bed space. On average, it takes female inmates a minimum of six months to complete the residential program.

Through grant-in-aid funds that T.J. Mahoney & Associates received for about year, female inmates were able to transition from the residential program to a structured community placement program. In order to transition, female inmates had to petition T.J. Mahoney & Associates staff to enter the structured community placement program upon completion of the residential program and demonstrate their readiness through program compliance and responsible living. The community placement program was a structured, comprehensive personal management system designed to guide inmates towards greater freedom and privileges through responsible action whereby the female inmates were placed on extended work furlough status and living in the community.

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
April 10, 2012
Page 2

The residential program cost about \$100 per day, and the structured community placement program costs about \$50 per day. Due to the lack of funds, the female inmates do not currently have the option to transition from the residential to a structured community placement program. PSD would certainly consider the option for female inmates to transition from the resident to a structured community placement program; however, additional funding allocations would be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



SCR6 SD1

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO REINVEST FUNDS ORIGINALLY
INTENDED FOR INCARCERATION INTO STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT
PROGRAMS FOR ELIGIBLE NON-VIOLENT FEMALE OFFENDERS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 11, 2012

9:35 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR6 SD1, which requests that the Department of Public Safety reinvest incarceration funding for community placement for non-violent female offenders.

OHA's 2010 report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," and the recently completed study by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative indicate that there is a clear need for smart justice solutions like treatment and reentry.

T.J. Mahoneys is an OHA grantee and successfully provides these services for female offenders. Similarly, OHA funded a trauma informed care initiative to provide more effective supervision of pa`ahao. The success of these programs can only come with further support from agencies like PSD.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. We urge your committee to PASS SCR6 SD1.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 533-3454 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Ige, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

9:35 a.m.

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SCR 6 SD1 – COMMUNITY PLACEMENT FOR NON VIOLENT WOMEN

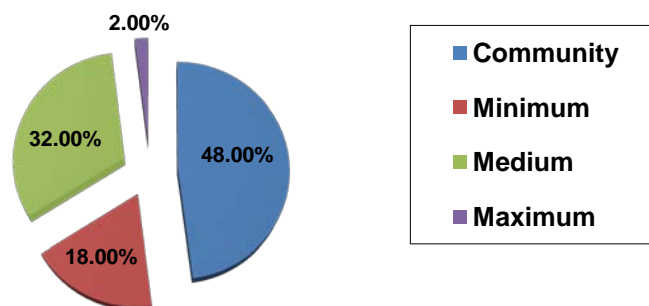
Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee!

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 on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that almost 1,800 individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SCR6 requests the Department of Public Safety to reinvest funds used for incarceration to structured community placement programs for eligible non-violent female offenders.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this resolution. In 2006 the department contracted with a nationally renowned firm to reclassify all 6,000 inmates in Hawai'i. At the end of this testimony is information from "Classification - Systematic Approach to Sound Correctional Management" by the Criminal Justice Institute, Inc., consultants hired by the Hawai'i Department of Public Safety and presented to the 2008 Hawai'i State Legislature, showing that more than 50% of the women are nonviolent and 66% are classified as Community or Minimum, the lowest custody levels.

Female Incarcerated Population



Since we know that more than 60% of the women are mothers and the primary caregivers of their children, it makes sense to place them at home with support and monitoring by an agency, such as TJ Mahoney (Ka Hale Ho'ala Hou No Na Wahine).

This will save money – as community placement with support and monitoring costs approximately \$50/day as opposed to \$127-\$137/day for incarceration, but will strengthen families and help the women reunite with their children.

This is what the federal bureau of prisons is already doing with eligible non-violent individuals, finding that it is cost-effective thereby preserving precious resources for those that need more assistance.

This is a common sense plan and we urge the committee to encourage the department to adopt strategies like this that are more humane, less costly and promote successful community reintegration.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED JAIL POPULATION DISTRIBUTIONS BY CUSTODY AND GENDER

<u>Custody Level</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
	Current	Projected	Current	Projected
Maximum	2.3%	1.3%	8.1%	2.5%
Medium	57.2%	26.5%	43.9%	40.4%
Minimum	40.5%	17.0%	48.1%	18.6%
Community	NA	55.2%	NA	38.5%

CURRENT AND PROJECTED PRISON POPULATION DISTRIBUTIONS BY CUSTODY AND GENDER

<u>Custody Level</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
	Current	Projected	Current	Projected
Maximum	3.8%	2.4%	16.9%	10.0%
Medium	33.5%	31.6%	43.1%	35.7%
Minimum	25.9%	18.2%	21.1%	31.4%
Community	36.8%	47.8%	18.8%	23.0%

NON-VIOLENT SENTENCED JAIL INMATES BY CUSTODY AND GENDER

<u>Custody Level</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
	Current	Projected	Current	Projected
Maximum	1.5%	1.5%	2.6%	1.3%
Medium	36.1%	24.8%	32.9%	34.8%
Minimum	62.4%	20.3%	64.5%	25.2%
Community	NA	53.4%	NA	38.7%

NON-VIOLENT SENTENCED PRISON INMATES BY CUSTODY AND GENDER

<u>Custody Level</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	
	Current	Projected	Current	Projected
Maximum	3.2%	1.9%	7.9%	4.7%
Medium	30.3%	29.4%	44.7%	29.3%
Minimum	27.6%	18.7%	28.7%	39.3%
Community	38.9%	50.0%	18.8%	26.7%

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

From: evernw@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT SCR 6 SD1
Date: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:57:34 PM

Please pass SCR6 SD1

This is a financially responsible way to spend funds to handle non violent incarcerated women and reduce recidivism. Even more important, this will help to keep families whole and reduce a repeat pattern with the children of these women.

Mahalo for y our support,
Evern Williams
3220 Esther Street
Honolulu, HI 96815
392-1486

From: shannon.rudolph
Subject: SUPPORTING SCR 6 SD1
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 7:35:51 AM

Aloha to the WAM Committee,

I support SCR 6 SD1 because I like the idea of saving money in a community setting vs. spending more money with incarceration; If the Federal Government is doing this nationally to save money I think we should be doing it also.

Many of these people are non-violent offenders who could be with their families for a huge savings to the taxpayer, which I consider a double plus. We need to spend our money more wisely and SCR 6 SD1 is the perfect opportunity to do so.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph
P. O. 243 Holualoa, Hi. 96725
(30 year Hawai'i resident)

--

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

~ Anne Frank