

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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LATE TESTIMONY

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To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Ted Sakai, Interim Director
Department of Public Safety (PSD)

Re: Comments on House Bill (HB) 919 Relating to State Employment

PSD **supports** the passage of HB 919, Relating to State Employment, to enable the state to further implement the work experience training programs and temporary public service employment. The proposed amendment will allow offenders who have been convicted of controlled substance abuse related offenses to participate in work experience training provided reasonable safeguards are in place to protect employees and the public.

The passage of HB 919 will enhance PSD's efforts in successfully preparing imprisoned offenders, including those participating in the Going Home Project in County of Hawaii, for their transition into the community through participation in federally funded programs, such as, work experience training and temporary public service employment. The Going Home Project has been a successful model of partnerships with PSD and other private and public agencies committed to addressing the needs of transitioning offenders to minimize their risk of re-offending. Participants in work experience training will acquire good work habits and skills that will increase their ability to secure jobs after the completion of training.

Numerous studies have found that criminal offenders are less likely to return to prison, if they remain gainfully employed. PSD finds that HB 919 will enhance the opportunities for criminal offenders transitioning from prison for the development of job skills and the securing of gainful employment.