

LATE TESTIMONY

SB71

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 29, 2013 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard S. Miller	Hawaii Coalition for Health	Support	No

RICHARD S. MILLER
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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Tuesday, January 29, 2013
2:50 p.m.
Room 224

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 71 – PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Aloha!

My name is Richard S. Miller. I am a retired law professor and former dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

I strongly support SB 71, which was offered by Kat Brady, the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade.

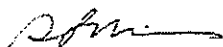
SB 71 appropriates funds to the department of public safety to contract with community-based nonprofit organizations to provide mentoring, restorative circles, farming, artisan skills, cognitive restructuring, and cultural healing services to inmates and former inmates.

Experts in Hawaii who have studied these programs conclude that these programs, if well run, can significantly reduce recidivism among released prisoners. It is incumbent upon those of us who are concerned about our prison populations and especially their families, often devastated by the incarceration of their loved ones, to make every reasonable effort to make these programs work. If successful, and there is no good reason why they should not be, there will be a significant savings to the State through a reduction of crime and a significant improvement in the conditions effecting prisoners and their families. This will benefit all of us.

It is time to take an intelligent, pro-active approach to reduce the costs and baleful effects of crime.

Your willingness to consider my views is very much appreciated.

With much Aloha,



Consultant, The Hawaii Coalition for Health

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ANDY BOTTS	NARC	Support	Yes

National Association of Reformed Criminals

Andy Botts & Franklin Jackson

1920 Ala Moana Blvd. #1104

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815

January 29, 2013

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday January 29, 2011

2:50 PM

Room 224

SB 71- MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS STRONG SUPPORT

NARC supports any and all avenues of community reintegration.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts



LATE

SB71 Appropriation: Public Safety. Makes appropriation to the department of public safety to contract with community-based non-profit organizations to provide mentoring, restorative circles, farming, artisan skills, cognitive restructuring and cultural healing services to inmates and former inmates.

- ✦ SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY: Senator Espero, Chair; Senator Baker, Vice Chair
- ✦ Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013; 2:50 p.m.
- ✦ Conference Room 224

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION Supports SB71

GOOD MORNING CHAIR ESPERO, VICE CHAIR BAKER AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than twenty non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

Potential risk factors for released offenders include pressures from peers and family members to return to drug use and a criminal lifestyle. Tensions of daily life—violent associates, few opportunities for legitimate employment, lack of safe housing, and even the need to comply with correctional supervision conditions—can also create stressful situations that can precipitate a relapse to drug use.

Reentry: Mentoring and Cognitive Restructuring helps to reduce offender risk factors.

Reentry for drug abusing offenders must address substance abuse as well as those problems in other areas besides addiction such as family difficulties, limited social skills, educational and employment problems, mental health disorders, infectious diseases, and other medical issues. Stress is a contributing factor to relapse as they deal with a multitude of challenges.

Offenders find that their prospects for housing and jobs are difficult. Most have little education. Most have a history of substance abuse, and more than one third have a physical or mental disability. They often interact with old neighborhoods that lack stable social bonds and few supports. Services that would help them restart their lives can be difficult to engage. There is a huge gap between their complex challenges and their limited opportunities for addressing them.

This cycle of recidivism has layers of negative consequences. Offenders impact their households and communities. The cost to taxpayers is enormous.

Research has demonstrated that carefully structured, well-run mentoring programs can positively affect social, behavioral and academic outcomes for at-risk people.

Services include:

- Employment-readiness training and job placement
- Intensive case management, including referrals for housing, healthcare, drug treatment and other programs.
- One-to-one and group mentoring to provide both emotional and practical support using cognitive restructuring methods.

Mentoring develops a trusting relationship with nonjudgmental support and guidance.

Offenders strengthen reentry outcomes by:

- They remain in programs to realize the full program benefit.
- They were more likely to find a job which helps them avoid criminal behavior. Especially a more productive job with opportunities.
- They are more likely to retain their jobs. Instead of temporary jobs, which is usual, they found continuing employment with quitting or being fired.

Mentoring enhances stability and reduces the likelihood for recidivism. It plays an important role for keeping offenders involved in a program, employed and out of trouble.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

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Lisa Jaramillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong support. Mahalo!