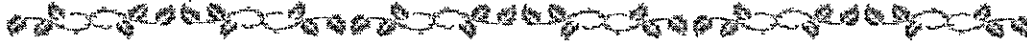


LATE TESTIMONY

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Roz Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, February 11, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Room 016

SUPPORT SB 75 - HOPE PAROLE

Aloha Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees!

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 more than 5,800 Hawai'i individuals are living behind bars, including 1,550 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 75 establishes a two-year parole pilot program for no more than twenty inmates to be subject to high-intensity parole supervision, i.e. HOPE Parole and makes an appropriation for the program.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure in the hope (pun intended!) that Hawai'i can experience similar outcomes to the HOPE probation program.

Todd Clear, an oft-cited criminologist said in a 2010 New York Times article¹...

The HOPE program, if widely adopted as a model for probation and parole reform, could make a surprisingly large contribution to reducing the prison population. In many states, the majority of prison admissions come not from arrests for new crimes, as you might think, but from probation and parole violations. Nationwide, roughly two-thirds of parolees fail to complete parole successfully. Todd Clear, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, estimates that by eliminating imprisonment across the nation for technical parole violations, reducing the length of parole supervision and ratcheting back prison sentences to their 1988 levels, the United States could reduce its prison population by 50 percent.

¹ Prisoners of Parole, New York Times, By JEFFREY ROSEN, Published: January 8, 2010.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/magazine/10prisons-t.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

From an article in the Detroit Free Press² ...

Parole supervision: What works?

- Individualized supervision plans for parolees
- Realistic, relevant and research-based conditions
- More focus on moderate- and high-risk parolees
- Swift action when violations occur
- Resources aimed at the first days and weeks of release
- Early discharge programs as incentives
- Geographically based supervision strategies
- Partnerships with community service providers
- Engaged family networks
- Rewards for positive behavior

The Alaska Justice Forum³ adopted a program for probations based on Hawai'i's HOPE program and is now expanding it to parolees:

The PACE Project and HOPE Model

The Alaska Judicial Council examined the PACE project and recently released the report, Anchorage PACE: Probation Accountability with Certain Enforcement: A Preliminary Evaluation of the Anchorage Pilot PACE Project, which looks at outcomes from July 2010 to June 2011. The Anchorage program is modeled after the Hawaii court probation violation project HOPE – Hawaii Opportunity Probation with Enforcement – instituted in 2004, which has been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism. The goal of the HOPE model is to deal with each violation quickly and immediately impose a sanction.

Alaska's Five-Year Prisoner Reentry Strategic Plan, 2011–2016⁴ includes the following recommendation:

Expand probationer accountability by utilizing a model with certain enforcement (PACE). **Implement this model with parolees immediately upon release from custody.**

There are, however, some things we would like to mention to the committee:

1. The Hawai'i Paroling Authority is its own agency that is administratively attached to PSD, so the bill should reflect that.
2. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative addresses the length of parole and one of our concerns about HOPE Probation is that after some violations, the person is sent to prison to serve their entire sentence. This is contrary to the suggestions of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.
3. Special parole officers would have to be trained in the HOPE-style, this would require funding and the hiring of new parole officers to handle their current workload, which is twice that of other jurisdictions.

We thank the committees for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify!

² States shift focus to aid parolees' transition home, By L.L. Brasier and Gina Damron, Detroit Free Press Staff Writers, October 2, 2012. <http://www.freep.com/article/20121002/NEWS01/310020085>

³ The Alaska Justice Forum, University of Alaska Anchorage, Vo. 28 No.2-3, Summer/Fall 2011, page 5. <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/28/2-3summerfall2011/282.summerfall2011.pdf>

⁴ The Alaska Justice Forum, University of Alaska Anchorage, Vo. 28 No.2-3, Summer/Fall 2011, page 6.