

# **SB 2309**

## RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Makes an appropriation to the department of public safety for the establishment and implementation of a re-entry facility for criminal offenders, which will include residential and day reporting programs.

PSM, WAM

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2309  
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY  
Ted Sakai, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

The Department of Public Safety **supports** Senate Bill 2309, Relating to Public Safety, which makes an appropriation to the Department for the establishment and implementation of a reentry facility and day reporting programs. Under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), the Department recognized the need to increase the reentry programs on Oahu. Utilizing JRI funding, bed space in the work furlough program at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) increased from 96 to 210. Even with this increase, the Department still maintains a waitlist, and not all inmates are placed in the work furlough program upon becoming eligible. As a result of this delay, many inmates are not paroled at the expiration of their minimum term due to not completing program requirements set by the parole board.

The Department has been seeking alternative solutions to address the need for more work furlough beds as we believe this would help with reducing the overall prison population. We appreciate this Committee's interest and assistance in addressing this issue, but would ask if an amendment to the facility size could be made to address our current and projected needs. Currently, due to insufficient space, the Department has inmates awaiting placement in the work furlough program at OCCC. In addition, this bill contemplates that the center would include offenders other than work furlough. Currently, the program at OCCC is operating at capacity, and there are others on the waiting list. This bill calls for a center of 250 beds, which would accommodate our current need. Additional beds would be needed to allow the Department to transition other types of offenders that could benefit for reentry services.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify and your support.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND**  
**MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**Twenty-Seventh State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2014**  
**State of Hawai'i**

January 28, 2014

**RE: S.B. 2309; RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.**

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following comments on Senate Bill 2309.

Senate Bill 2309 makes an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety for the establishment and implementation of a re-entry facility for criminal offenders, which will include residential and day reporting programs.

While the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the funding of re-entry programs for offenders transitioning back into society, some of the \$100 million appropriated in this bill should also be used for the building and operation of a new two-thousand to three-thousand bed correctional facility designed to house medium-security inmates, which will keep offenders near their family, friends, and programs that are sensitive to the needs of offenders who grew up in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

### **SB2309 PUBLIC SAFETY: Re-entry Facility for Criminal Offenders**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS: Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

- Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.
- Conference Room 224

### **HSAC Supports SB2309:**

*Good Morning Chair Espero; Vice Chair Baker; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than twenty treatment and prevention agencies across the State.*

**The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition fully supports funding for a re-entry facility for criminal offenders, which includes residential and day reporting processes.**

The purpose of SB2309 is to break the cycle of recidivism by providing wrap around services that meets the holistic needs of the offender spanning the gamut of substance use disorder treatment, mental health services, vocational rehabilitation, domestic violence or anger management, and effective supervision.

1. Substance use disorder treatment decreases future drug use and drug-related criminal behavior;
2. Because addiction causes long term changes in the brain, a treatment program can help the offender manage adverse behaviors that can be stimulated by cravings for drugs and stress.
3. Prison time does not cure addiction. Offenders still need to learn how to avoid relapse, which can quickly return intense cravings.
4. Offenders have high risk factors that are a result of re-entering society, including reuniting with family members, securing housing, and complying with criminal justice supervision requirements. Even the many daily decisions that most people face can be stressful for those recently released from a highly controlled prison environment.

Reentry for drug abusing offenders must address those problems in other areas besides addiction. Examples include family difficulties, limited social skills, educational and employment problems, mental health disorders, infectious diseases, and other medical issues. Effective reentry should take these problems into account, because they can increase the risk of drug relapse and criminal recidivism if left unaddressed.

**In any case, treatment is needed to provide the skills necessary to avoid or cope with situations that could lead to relapse. Research also reveals that with effective drug abuse treatment, individuals can overcome persistent drug effects and lead healthy, productive lives.**

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