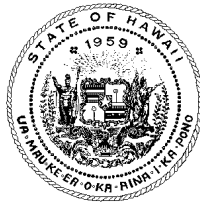


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



**TED SAKAI**  
DIRECTOR

**Martha Torney**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Max Otani**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Shawn Tsuha**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 2309 SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1  
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

by  
Ted Sakai, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, February 28, 2014, 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to comment on SB 2309 SD1. PSD supports Senate Bill 2309, Relating to Public Safety, which makes an appropriation to PSD for the establishment and implementation of a reentry facility and day reporting programs. Under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), PSD 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, PSD 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.

PSD 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, PSD 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 PSD to transition other types of offenders that could benefit for reentry services.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lauren.uson@student.chaminade.edu](mailto:lauren.uson@student.chaminade.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2309 on Feb 28, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2014 1:01:03 AM

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**SB2309**

Submitted on: 2/28/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 28, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Uson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a member of the general community, I highly support the idea that this bill is trying to pass. Being a student majoring in Criminal Justice, the main step in transitioning criminal offenders into the community is to allow them to actually take part IN the community. By providing criminal offenders re-entry facilities of residential and day-reporting programs, does not only smoothly transition criminal offenders into the community but also reduces recidivism rates. By reducing recidivism rates, jail and prison populations will decrease gradually, which definitely makes use of taxpayers' monies.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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