

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: joy.m.windham@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2579 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 5:36:18 AM
Attachments: [SB2579_PSD_01-27-14_HTH.pdf](#)

SB2579

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for HTH on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

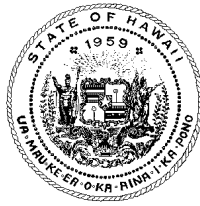
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy	Dept of Public Safety	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: PSD "supports the intent" of this bill. Please call PSD/Joy #7-3479 if you have any questions. Thanks! jw

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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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
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TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2579
A BILL RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Monday, January 27, 2014, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety **supports the intent** of Senate Bill 2579, Relating to Mental Health. This bill authorizes the Director of Budget and Finance to issue general obligation bonds for the Department of Health to develop a secure inpatient psychiatric facility.

It has become evident through public hearings that the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) is inadequate in addressing the needs of the forensic patients that are ordered by the courts to the custody of the Department of Health. All patients at the HSH were originally charged with a criminal offense, and many have a history of violence which could pose a danger to staff and other patients. The capacity of this proposed facility is unclear; however, it should be noted that our Department shares similar concerns with

the Department of Health as we have approximately 500 severe and persistent mentally ill inmates under our custody.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

**The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Health**

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 27, 2014

S.B. 2579 – RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

The Hawaii Government Employees Association strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2579. This important legislation authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds for the Department of Health to develop a secure inpatient psychiatric facility capable of serving the mentally ill population who require a higher level of security, and inmates and detainees who need more intensive mental health care.

Hawaii must build a secure forensic facility to address the large patient population at Hawaii State Hospital. Virtually every patient admitted now comes to the hospital by court order because they have been charged with a crime, and most have been diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness, substance abuse, or both. In addition, a significant number of the inmates and detainees in prisons and jails have a history of violence, but also need psychiatric care.

Hawaii State Hospital is simply inadequate to treat the growing forensic population, and therefore creates serious health and safety risks to staff and patients. The current situation is unacceptable and this measure is necessary to serve and protect staff and patients. Hawaii, like many other states, should have a secure forensic facility to treat this population of patients and inmates.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak in strong support of S.B. 2579.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2579 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:41:07 AM

SB2579

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for HTH on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Green and members of the committee, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we offer our support for SB2579. This bill will provide for a facility that is much needed. Not only will this provide for greater security for staff it will free up beds that are critically needed for our most vulnerable population. Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2579 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:34:39 PM

SB2579

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Josh Green, Chair, and Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2579. This action is long overdue and when passed and the facility completed, will provide better patient care and increased safety for both the staff and the patients at HSH. Please pass this bill and let's make this a reality. Again, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2579, and mahalo for all you do to protect and support the citizens of this great state. Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP

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