

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/email: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Room 224

SUPPORT SB 2592 - DIVERSION AND REENTRY PILOT PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee!

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2592 authorizes the establishment of a diversion and reentry pilot project. Appropriates funds. Repeals July 1, 2016.

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports reentry. We are happy to see proposals that recognize that reentry is a weak link in the system that needs strengthening.

We believe that if we extend the current collaboration of DLIR and PSD to include the community and businesses, we can have a robust reentry system. The successful Hawai'i Island program is a model that can be replicated and strengthened throughout Hawai'i nei.

Hawai'i already has examples of what works with our people. Reducing the prison population and releasing individuals incarcerated for nonviolent drug offenses who have been working on their rehabilitation is a great idea that offers hope. As Mother Teresa said, *To live without hope is to live without bread.*

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Founded in 1865

William Booth
Founder

Andre Cox
General

James Knaggs
Territorial Commander

John Chamness
Divisional Commander

Melanie Boehm
Executive Director

The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services

LATE TESTIMONY

1/27/14

SB2592 PUBLIC SAFETY: Diversion and Re-entry Pilot Program
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

The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS) Supports SB2592:

The Salvation Army ATS strongly supports the efforts to address the reduction in recidivism of non-violent low risk substance abusing offenders. Community based treatment for the provision of a continuum of care of substance abuse treatment services (residential and outpatient) including case management, vocational services, family programming, and aftercare is a healthy and cost-effective alternative. The early release of non-violent drug using offenders to a community based substance abuse treatment facility will likely demonstrate an effective treatment option. Recidivism will be reduced and there will be a decrease in the prison population of the most appropriate target group to return to community living and treatment.

Experienced treatment providers currently in the community are able to provide this type of continuum of care immediately. Treatment providers match risk assessment scores with individualized treatment planning thereby providing evidence-based treatment interventions for maximum effectiveness toward achieving targeted treatment outcomes. This directly translates out to a decrease in new arrests, decreased use of substances, and increased compliance with supervision stipulations. Offenders learn new pro-social skills that enhance relapse/recidivism prevention plans and increase the success of offenders' integration back into responsible community living.

Individualized and comprehensive treatment planning and treatment interventions take into account all aspects of an offender's reintegration. Providing evidence based practices using Cognitive-Behavioral interventions will result in transformation of offender thought patterns, an increase in impulse control, a decrease of criminal attitudes, and a re-adjustment in offender associations. This impacts an offender's ability to realize his/her potential and returns him/her to drug-free and crime-free community living.

Offenders who are matched with the right treatment interventions, structure, support, and accountability through integrated community collaborations engage in a holistic approach to their care. Often times this includes but is not limited to collaborations with primary care physicians, therapists, psychiatrists, social services, and supervision officers. Community based treatment facilities engaging in this kind of evidence-based interventions can and will make a difference for positive outcomes when working with early released non-violent offenders.

Sincerely,

Melanie T. Boehm MA, LMHC, CSAC
Executive Director

Participating Agency



3624 Waokanaka Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817 • Tel: (808) 595-6371 • Fax: (808) 595-8250
Visit us at: www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org