

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn H. Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68
AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 32
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND
ITS COMMUNITY-BASED WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FORMERLY
INCARCERATED FEMALE INMATES TRANSITION BACK INTO SOCIETY.

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

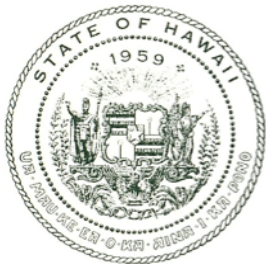
Thursday, March 17, 2016; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 68 and House Resolution (HR) 32, which proposes to encourage PSD to continue and expand our community-based work furlough programs for formerly incarcerated female inmates to help in their transition back into society.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Catherine Betts

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 17, 2016

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Cathy Betts
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of HR 32/HCR 68

The Commission is in strong support of HR 32/HCR 68, which would encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for incarcerated females in Hawaii. The majority of incarcerated females in Hawaii have committed non-violent crimes. The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Many of the women incarcerated are victims of gender based violence and trauma, making their transition out of incarceration especially challenging.

Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry to the community.

The Commission supports HR 32/HCR 68 and requests that the Committees pass these resolutions. Thank you for your time.



o'ahu

YWCA Fernhurst
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
(808) 941-2231

YWCA Kokokahi
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
(808) 247-2124

YWCA Laniākea
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 538-7061

www.ywcaoahu.org

To: Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

From: Noriko Namiki, Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of O'ahu

Re: HCR 68/HR 32 – Encouraging the Department of Public Safety to Continue and Expand its
Community-based Work Furlough programs to Assist Formerly Incarcerated Female Inmates
Transition Back into Society - SUPPORT
Thursday, March 17, 2016, 10:00 a.m. -- Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 309

Good morning Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

On behalf of YWCA O'ahu we thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in **strong support of HCR 68/HR 32**, which aims to reduce recidivism and ensure safer communities through the expansion of successful community-based work furlough programs for female offenders.

This resolution highlights the importance of gender-specific, work furlough programs that are integrated in the community, and identifies the need to address the various factors that contribute to and perpetuate female incarceration in our state.

Expanding community-based work furlough programs is an investment in safer communities. Nationally, 50-60% of women offenders who complete community-based work furlough programs stay out of prison for two years. Studies on recidivism show that former offenders who are not re-incarcerated for at least two years after being released from their sentence are unlikely to recommit crimes.

Currently, YWCA O'ahu operates *Ka Hale Ho'āla Hou No Nā Wāhine* (The Home of Reawakening for Women), the only community-based work furlough program in the state for female offenders. The day our program became operational in July 2015, we were at capacity with a waiting list of participants. There is a demonstrated need to expand programs like ours that provide an integrated re-socialization and reentry process for women offenders transitioning into the community.

Although the criminal justice system has traditionally focused on male offenders, the rate of female incarceration has grown rapidly in the past few decades. To address this issue, criminal justice professionals and decision makers should consider the need for gender specific policy in reducing recidivism in female offenders. Women become involved in criminal behavior for different reasons than men do, and the treatment of women offenders must be differentiated from treatment of male offenders.

An overview of female offenders in our State shows that the vast **majority are victims of trauma and violence, many are mothers or grandmothers, and disproportionately Native Hawaiian**. Studies also show that women's most common pathways to crime are based on experiences of physical abuse, poverty and substance abuse. To respond to these variables, our program is modeled to specifically serve women offenders in Hawaii and is trauma-informed, gender-responsive, and culturally-sensitive. In comparison to the national statistic, our program is significantly more effective in reducing recidivism. **82.4% of the women we serve in our program successfully stay out of prison for at least two years.**

Structured, community-based work furlough programs are necessary to **give women offenders the resources and skills to face the challenge of building a successful life after incarceration**. These programs provide women with the support necessary to sustain employment and advance in their careers, thus decreasing both welfare dependency and the inclination to return to criminal behavior for economic reasons. Community-based work furlough programs also serve to reduce the potential for delinquency among children of program graduates through targeted skill building for their mothers. As many women offenders are mothers, reducing recidivism in this group is critical to preventing an intergenerational cycle of crime.

Community-based work furlough programs for women offenders can be **efficient and cost-effective in the long-term**. The Department of Public Safety reported the cost of incarceration is \$134 per day for each inmate and as of November 2014 there were over 600 women under their custody. A decrease in recidivism and re-incarceration will reduce the high cost of keeping offenders behind bars. It also reduces the financial and social costs the cycle of crime has on offenders' families and communities.

As a formerly incarcerated population rejoins the greater community, the State faces an increased challenge and responsibility of promoting offender success as a means of achieving greater public safety. We urge the committee to support this measure to continue and expand the efforts of the Department of Public Safety and effective programs like *Ka Hale Ho`āla Hou No Nā Wāhine* on empowering women to successfully transition from prison into the community.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:06 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: kcoleman@ywcaohu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kehaulani coleman	ywca o'ahu	Support	No

Comments: Subject: Please Support HCR68 and HR32 for safer communities Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: • Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes • Many are mothers • The majority are victims of trauma and violence • The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not support during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration. Kehaulani Coleman Director of Economic Advancement Programs

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Date: March 16, 2016

Subject: Please Support HCR68 and HR32 for safer communities

Aloha Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii.

An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows:

- Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes
- Many are mothers, some are grandmothers
- The majority are victims of trauma and violence
- The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian.

Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry.

We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. **Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people.**

Mahalo for your consideration.

Talia Cardines
Program Manager
Fernhurst YWCA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 4:30 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: kinohiola@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR32 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

Categories: Green Category

HR32

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kinohi	YWCA FERNHURST	Support	No

Comments: Subject: Please Support HCR68 and HR32 for safer communities Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: • Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes • Many are mothers • The majority are victims of trauma and violence • The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not support during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:00 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:59 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: leilani.maxera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM*

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 4:39 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM*

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 7:43 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: sgrossi@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM*

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirley Grossi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 6:12 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: rchanghawaii@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rachel cunningham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is imperative to continue support of work furlough programs so that women can transition successfully back into the main stream society. I have personally witnessed many women benefit from such programs and become productive citizens. Without those programs, the women are one step away from repeating their past mistakes. Please keep supporting the programs.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 5:26 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: jkojima@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kojima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Subject: Please Support HCR68 and HR32 for safer communities Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. I am personally involved with a program called Beacon of Hope, which is a private transitional home supported by the community and local Kailua churches that provides a sanctuary for women coming out of a work furlough program. I have heard these women's stories, and seen the transformation they go through with the support of work furlough programs that aid the transition back into being productive citizens in our community. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: • Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes • Many are mothers • The majority are victims of trauma and violence • The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration. John Kojima

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:12 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: knoborik@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaylee Noborikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: - Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes - Many are mothers - The majority are victims of trauma and violence - The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:10 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: chanelthonda@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chanel Honda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: • Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes • Many are mothers • The majority are victims of trauma and violence • The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:12 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: klgreen79@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. Similar programs saved my dads life in Texas and he's now drug free and a contributing member to his family and society. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes. Many are mothers. The majority are victims of trauma and violence. The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not support during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:34 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: bsmith@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bettelynn Smith	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Please SUPPORT HCR68 and HR32 for safer communities Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to you, for your SUPPORT to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. Many are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, they are victims of trauma, domestic violence and are mothers Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. Many female offenders return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. We need to SUPPORT the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please SUPPORT this measure to reduce repetition, the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:20 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: cdamon@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charmaine Damon	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have been familiar with YWCA O'ahu for nearly 18 years and have seen the love the community has for its historic downtown building, Laniakea, and for the outcomes its programs produce. YWCA O'ahu and Laniakea are testaments to what girls and women can accomplish when supported by their community. This organization has already demonstrated that it can produce the maximum outcome with minimum resources so I believe that any investment in this organization will be returned many-fold to the community.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:48 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: jilanouette@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill Feldon Lanouette	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Please move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes Many are mothers The majority are victims of trauma and violence The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not support during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration

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pbstestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:36 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: agandiza@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR32 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM*

Categories: Green Category

HR32

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Gandiza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 3:18 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: chobson@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR32 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

Categories: Green Category

HR32

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Hobson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Subject: Please Support HCR68 and HR32 for safer communities Dear Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am writing to urge you to move forward on HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: • Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes • Many are mothers • The majority are victims of trauma and violence • The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not support during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:29 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Quite a number of the women are in for "minor" infractions and are not dangerous to the community. It will help to keep families together.

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March 17, 2016

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety

LATE

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HCR68/HR 32 Encouraging DPS to Expand Community-based Programs
Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Room 309

POSITION: Strong Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong support of HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and to expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii.

The majority of women who are incarcerated in Hawaii have been incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes; most of those crimes are drug-related and the majority have been victims of some kind of violence; and the population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian.

Studies show that community-based work furlough programs effective at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry.

Community-based programs are not only effective, they are less costly than incarceration and reduce recidivism.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

We respectfully request that the committee pass this measure.

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

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 17, 2016
10:00 a.m.
Room 309



STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 68 – WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people 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.

HCR 68 encourages the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs to assist formerly incarceration female inmates transition back into society.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. We know that many incarcerated women are mothers and are imprisoned for drugs and/or drug-involved crimes.

Hawai'i's Justice Reinvestment Initiative analysis made it clear that incarcerating drug lawbreakers was not a successful strategy for rehabilitation; however, community-based treatment has proven time and again to be cheaper (for every dollar spent, \$7-\$18 is saved) and more successful in helping folks with recovery.

Women's work furlough programs are necessary since Hawai'i has only one work furlough option and it's in Honolulu. A disproportionate percentage of the women are Kanaka Maoli (much more than 44% by observation) and many are from neighbor islands. More than half of the women are mothers and this separation has devastating effects on families.

The 1.31.16 Weekly Population Report from the Department of Public Safety shows:

- 11% of the total Hawai'i imprisoned population are women (618 women)
- 28% of women were serving time for misdemeanors and parole or probation violations (175)

That costs taxpayers \$24,500 a day and \$735,000 a month! There are much better strategies that are more cost-effective and humane than imprisonment. The costs to families is incalculable.

Data from The Sentencing Project shows just 13,000 women were incarcerated in all federal and state prisons in 1980, then comprising just 4 percent of the total prison population. That rate has risen by a staggering 646 percent in the 30 years following, while the rate for men has increased by 419 percent.

Hawai`i needs work furlough programs on every island to serve the needs of women and their families. Work furlough is a great reentry strategy that helps women readjust to community life with support services and supervision.

We urge the committee to support this important resolution!

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 6:25 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM*

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:30 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: jeannine808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM



HCR68

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Souki	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Rep. Takayama and members of the Committee on Public Safety, I am a member of the YWCA of Oahu Board who supports HCR 68 and HR32, to encourage the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand community-based work furlough programs for female offenders in Hawaii. I have seen how this program has benefited women in work furlough and am writing to urge your favorable consideration of this resolution. An overview of female offenders in Hawaii shows: Most are incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes Many are mothers The majority are victims of trauma and violence The population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not support during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry. We need to promote the successful reentry of female offenders through effective community-based work furlough programs. Please support this measure to reduce recidivism and the financial and social costs of the cycle of crime and incarceration. Vote YES to ensure safer communities for all Hawaii's people. Mahalo for your consideration. Jeannine Souki

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 5:24 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: hmiyasato@ekahihealth.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Miyasato	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please continue to support programs for our women to get their feet back on the ground and help build safer communities in Hawaii.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 5:12 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR68 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

LATE

HCR68

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawai'i's Justice Reinvestment Initiative analysis made it clear that incarcerating drug lawbreakers was not a successful strategy for rehabilitation; however, community-based treatment has proven time and again to be cheaper (for every dollar spent, \$7-\$18 is saved) and more successful in helping folks with recovery. Women have one work furlough option and it's in Honolulu. A disproportionate percentage of the women are Kanaka Maoli (much more than 44% by observation) More than half of the women are mothers As of 1.31.16, women were 11% of the total Hawai'i imprisoned population (618 women) 28% of women were serving time for misdemeanors and parole or probation violations (175) We need to keep families together and work furlough helps reintegration because it is supervised and supportive

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