

SB 562

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and 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

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 & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Roz Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

COMMENTS ON SB 562 - GO Bonds for Reentry & Day Reporting Center

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

My name is Kat Brady and I am a Community Justice Advocate. I am also the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars and the thousands of people on probation and parole. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of 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 Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 562 authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and 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.

Although Community Alliance on Prisons is happy to see some movement towards implementing the 2007 reentry law (Chapter 353 H, HRS), a 250-bed facility is not real reentry. After years in prison, individuals need help learning to live independently in the community. Living in a 250-bed facility doesn't do much to promote independent living.

Reentry works best in smaller community-based programs that are near employment centers and transportation and offer an array of services such as housing and employment assistance as well as access to substance abuse, mental health, parenting and other needed programs.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports the day reporting center part of this bill. In fact, a center that has services for individuals in a one-stop shop model is sorely needed. The Center could be accessed by people released on parole as well for those who have served their maximum sentence and have been released into the community. It could provide services from programs to housing and employment assistance. Job Fairs with employers willing to hire people with criminal records could be held along with classes

It would be most helpful to have the input of formerly incarcerated people since they are the experts in what is needed to help someone successfully transition from incarceration to the community.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 10:42 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: ajohnson@hinamauka.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB562 on Feb 3, 2015 13:15PM
Attachments: SB562 Reentry Facility copy.docx

SB562

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 3, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Johnson	Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB562 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, February 3, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
- Conference Room 229

HSAC Supports SB562:

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 thirty 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 SB562 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 8:41 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB562 on Feb 3, 2015 13:15PM*

SB562

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 3, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, & Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

1:15, Room 229

SUPPORT SB 562, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 562.

At present, inmates released are "thrown out" into the open without a mentor to assist them into reentering the community.

Its strange that we expect those who have been imprisoned within four walls for many years to be able to assimilate into the community without any preparation as to what is "out there." I've spoken to many former inmates (federal too) who felt overwhelmed and at loss once they leave the prison. The insecurity causes many to fail,

We train and nurture animals before releasing them back into the wild, but we do not do that for our fellow man.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony and ask for your serious consideration in passage of this bill.

Aloha,

e. ileina funakoshi