

# **SB 566**

## **RELATING TO CORRECTION FACILITIES**

Appropriates funds to the department of public safety for the creation of two pilot programs designed to promote inmate visitation at state correctional facilities.

PSM, WAM

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

February 3, 2015

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 566  
A BILL RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **opposes** this measure.

We strongly believe that firmer internal controls already implemented will provide the desired result of all Hawaii inmates and their families being able to regularly rely on visits being conducted on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Department of Public Safety accepts this challenge in full recognition of the rehabilitative benefits of regular visitation for the inmate population of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## 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

### SUPPORT for SB 566 - VISITATION

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker 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 for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that more than 1,600, and soon to be rising number of Hawai'i individuals who 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 566 appropriates funds to the department of public safety for the creation of two pilot programs (weekend visitation and weekday visitation) designed to promote inmate visitation at state correctional facilities.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of visitation, as is the plethora of research showing the benefits of visitation on the facility, family and individual. Maintaining connections is one of the most crucial and probably the hardest thing to do while one is incarcerated. The barriers are numerous and sometimes they seem arbitrary and capricious. We find it shameful that visitation has been cancelled so regularly at Halawa and especially at OCCC when it is a known fact that the lack of visitation creates more stress and tension for management and incarcerated persons.

We applaud the legislature for caring about all of our people as this measure demonstrates. It gives people hope that at least you notice the "unseen" in our community and we mahalo you for that.

We find it outrageous that taxpayers are again asked to pay when some people make a choice not to show up for work. This willful indifference places their colleagues and the incarcerated persons living in that facility at risk. Nevertheless, visitation is important, so we respectfully ask the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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**To:** PSMTestimony  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB566 on Feb 3, 2015 13:15PM\*

**SB566**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**SB566**

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
Rafael Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, Mahalo for your consideration on this issue. It is beyond clear that allowing prisoners to maintain strong, meaningful bonds with their families and communities while they are incarcerated is one of the most important factors in re-entry and in discouraging recidivism. While it is unfortunate that an additional appropriation is necessary to ensure adequate staffing for visitation, this is an investment that will be returned in less crime and in having inmates return to be productive members of society more easily. Thank you again for taking the time to address this urgent issue. Rafael Kennedy

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**SB566**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james crowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is common sense, timely and appeals to the better angels of our nature. In the long run it will save money for the state, taxpayers and inmates' families.

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