



SCR84

Measure Title:	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.
Report Title:	Transitional programs for incarcerated women.
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	Women's Legislative Caucus
Current Referral:	PSM, JDL/WAM
Introducer(s):	L. THIELEN, BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, Inouye, Kidani, Kim, Shimabukuro, Tokuda

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 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84
AND SENATE RESOLUTION 55
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

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 24, 2016; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 84 and Senate Resolution (SR) 55, 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.



March 24, 2016

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SCR 84/SR 55 Encouraging DPS to Expand Community-based Programs
Hearing: Thursday, March 24, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Room 229

POSITION: Strong Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong support of SCR 84 and SR 55, 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.

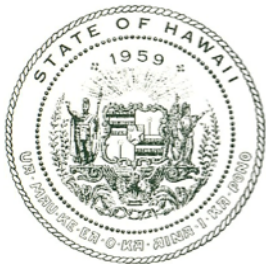
Studies show that community-based work furlough programs effective at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. Many female offenders also return to crime if their recovery is not supported during their transition into society. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive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

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
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Executive Director
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March 24, 2016

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SCR 84/SR 55

The Commission is in strong support of SCR 84/SR 55 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 and 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 SCR 84/SR 55 and requests that the Committees pass these resolutions. Thank you for your time.

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To: Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

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

Re: SCR 84/SR 55 – 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 24, 2016, 2:00 p.m. -- Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229

Good morning Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, 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 SCR84/SR55**, 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
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: kcoleman@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 3:05:03 PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kehaulani coleman	ywca o'ahu	Support	Yes

Comments: Dear Sen. Nishihara and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs: I am writing to urge you to move forward on SCR84 and SR55, 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.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Monday, March 21, 2016 6:10:56 PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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, as it is a win-win situation for all stakeholders.

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COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Will Espero, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 24, 2016

2:00 p.m.

Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT - SCR 84/SR 55 - WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero 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.

SCR 84/SR 55 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!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: susan.wurtzburg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 5:28:40 PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Data demonstrates that the majority of women in state prisons are victims of violence, and many are parents. For the good of Hawaiian families, these women deserve the opportunity to re-enter society offered by the furlough program.

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Cc: knoborik@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:43:21 PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Dear Sen. Nishihara and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs: I am writing to urge you to move forward on SCR84, 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.

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To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: jkojima@ywcaoahu.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:48:29 AM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Subject: Please Support SCR84 for safer communities Dear Senator Nishihara and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs: I am writing to urge you to move forward on SCR84 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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To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: sherry.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:54:18 AM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I'm writing to urge you to move forward on SCR84 and SR55, 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, Sherry Campagna

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To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 11:15:09 AM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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Cc: agandiza@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR84 on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM*
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 5:35:52 PM

SCR84

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for PSM on Mar 24, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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