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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HCR157, HD1

REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES TO REDUCE THE DETAINEE AND INMATE POPULATION WHILE PRESERVING PUBLIC SAFETY, LOWER RECIDIVISM, AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 325

Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.C.R. No. 157, H.D. 1, Requesting that the Correctional Justice Task Force Continue its Study of Effective Incarceration Policies to Reduce the Inmate Population While Preserving Public Safety, Lower Recidivism, and Improve Hawaii's Correctional System.

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the continuation of the Correctional Justice Task Force established pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, S.D. 1 (2016), and to amend its purpose to include a clarification that initiatives that promote the reduction in detainee and inmate populations not come at the expense of public safety.

The measure also requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau continue to assist the task force with the drafting of an additional report for submission to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; provided that the task force submit a draft to the Legislative Reference Bureau, including any other

information and materials deemed necessary by the Bureau, for the preparation of the final report, before September 1, 2018.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure, but submits the following comments for your consideration.

If the measure is not amended to increase the scope of the Bureau's involvement in this project, the Bureau believes that the services requested under this measure are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 2:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By

Sidney Nakamoto

Probation Administrator, First Circuit

Resolution No. and Title: House Concurrent Resolution No. 157, H.D.1, Requesting that the Correctional Justice Task Force Continue Its Study of Effective Incarceration Policies to Reduce the Detainee and Inmate Population While Preserving Public Safety, Lower Recidivism, and Improve Hawaii’s Correctional System.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports HCR 157, H.D. 1, which would extend the life of the Task Force created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, S.D.1 (2016) until 2018 and thereby allow it to better fulfill its important mandate of identifying and recommending policies and practices that will significantly reduce the cost of incarceration and improve public safety.

The HCR 85 Task Force began its work in June 2016 when it met for the first time and created five subcommittees to provide community and professional expertise in key subject areas. The five subcommittees are: (1) the Native Hawaiian subcommittee; (2) the education subcommittee; (3) the program subcommittee; (4) the design subcommittee; and (5) the faith subcommittee. The subcommittees collected relevant data on Hawaii’s correctional system, reviewed best practices in states and countries with the lowest recidivism rates, consulted with local and national correctional experts, and conducted public hearings to receive input from the community.

In February, 2017 the task force issued its preliminary report to the 2017 legislature outlining ideas on how Hawaii can transition to a correctional system that substantially reduces the cost of incarceration while significantly reducing the present level of recidivism. On



House Concurrent Resolution No. 157, H.D. 1
House Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 2:15 p.m.
Page 2

February 23, 2017 the task force appeared before a joint hearing of the House and Senate to provide a briefing on the interim report. Four main priorities were identified: transition from a punitive to a rehabilitative correctional system through application of Hawaiian values of Aloha to all aspects of the correctional system; implementation of relevant treatment and diversion programs; establishment of an academy for training of executive branch and judiciary personnel involved in administration of incarcerated people; and the creation of a transitional coordinator to ensure implementation of the measures adopted by this legislature and the judiciary to reduce recidivism and lower the cost of incarceration.

Under the guidance and leadership of the chairs of the House and Senate public safety committees the HCR 85 Task Force has been extremely productive, yet much remains to be done, particularly in terms of projecting cost savings from our recommendations. The members of the HCR 85 Task Force welcome the opportunity to serve until 2018 and to provide a more comprehensive and complete final report in response to the important mandate the legislature has given us.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HCR157 HD1
REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE CONTINUE ITS
STUDY OF EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES TO REDUCE THE DETAINEE AND
INMATE POPULATION WHILE PRESERVING PUBLIC SAFETY, LOWER RECIDIVISM,
AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

House Committee on Judiciary

April 4, 2017

2:15 p.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR157 HD1. This resolution would allow the Correctional Justice Task Force to continue its efforts to understand, analyze, and make recommendations for Hawai'i's incarceration policies and correctional system, to ultimately reduce the growing social and economic burdens of our criminal justice system.

Decades of following a traditional criminal justice approach have now led to the highest prison population in Hawai'i's history. The rapid growth of our incarcerated population during the past forty years¹ strongly counsels the reexamination of our criminal justice system, including our policies with respect to criminal liability, prisoner rehabilitation, and reintegration. In addition, the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system indicates the existence of larger systemic issues, such as implicit bias and disparate treatment in interactions from arrest, to adjudication, to final release.²

The Correctional Justice Task Force is currently sifting through the many systemic issues in our criminal justice system that may be contributing to its growing social and

¹ The number of people incarcerated in Hawai'i increased by more than 900 percent between 1977 and 2008, and by 1,400 percent between 1977 and the present. OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 17 (2010),

http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/10-09_exs_disparatetreatmentofnativehawaiians_rd-ac.pdf. The Native Hawaiian community has been particularly impacted by this increase, making up 40 percent of our prison population today. In contrast, Native Hawaiians represent only 24% of the general public in Hawai'i. *Id.* at 36.

² OHA's 2010 study found that the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on Native Hawaiians accumulates at every stage, noting that Native Hawaiians made up "24 percent of the general population, but 27 percent of all arrests, 33 percent of people in pretrial detention, 29 percent of people sentenced to probation, 36 percent admitted to prison in 2009, [and] 39 percent of the incarcerated population." Moreover, controlling for many common factors including type of charge, the study revealed that Native Hawaiians were more likely to be found guilty, receive a prison sentence, and receive a longer prison sentence or probation term than most other ethnic groups. *Id.* at 28-38.

economic costs, as well as its disproportionate impact on the Native Hawaiian community. Given the complexity of these issues, the Task Force should be afforded the necessary time and resources to carry out its work, as well as explore the potential benefits of new and progressive correctional and criminal justice approaches, such as the recommendations of the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force. By allowing the Task Force to continue its work, this resolution may be critical to the further development of much-needed and long-awaited strategies for reducing the State's incarcerated population, reducing corrections costs, and proactively investing in public safety and recidivism reduction initiatives.

In light of the above, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR157 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 157,
HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE CONTINUE ITS
STUDY OF EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES TO REDUCE THE
DETAINEE AND INMATE POPULATION WHILE PRESERVING PUBLIC
SAFETY, LOWER RECIDIVISM, AND IMPROVE
HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 4, 2017; 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 157, House Draft (HD) 1, which requests the continuation of the work of the Correctional Justice Task Force to study effective incarceration policies in order to reduce the detainee and inmate population, lower recidivism, and improve Hawaii's correctional system.

PSD appreciates that the Task Force is working towards the same important goals and objectives embraced by the Department and looks forward to receiving its report with recommendations to assist in improving Hawaii's correctional system.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

2:15 pm

Room 325

STRONG SUPPORT - HCR 157 HD1 - EXTENDING HCR 85 TASK FORCE

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the almost 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 more than 1,600 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this resolution. The Task Force has been meeting regularly as has its sub-committees and there is still much work to be done as the task force

- explores best practices successfully employed in other jurisdictions and around the world,
- interviews experts who can help move Hawai'i into a system that focuses on rehabilitation instead of punishment, and
- gathers wide input from community, formerly incarcerated persons, people who work in the system, the families who have experienced incarceration, etc.

We urge the committee to pass this resolution to extend the HCR 85 Task Force another year to allow it to chart the proper course for corrections in Hawai'i that is science-based, is data-driven, and is evidence-based.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



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April 3, 2017

Chair Scott Nishimoto
Judiciary Committee
Regarding: HCR 157 HD1

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Nishimoto & Committee Members,

My name is Michael Broderick and I was the Chair of the Native Hawaiian Criminal Justice Task Force charged with making findings and developing recommendations to address the disproportionate number of Native Hawaiians in prison. Consequently, I strongly support, and have great interest in, the work of the Correctional Justice Task Force, created by HCR No. 85, S.D. 1 (2016).

HCR No. 85 has a very broad mandate, and the Task Force has very little time left to complete its work. A draft of the Task Force's final report and supporting materials must be submitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau before August 1, 2017. HCR 157 HD1 would extend the life of the Task Force for another year so that the Task Force can submit an additional report, recommendations and proposed legislation on issues the Task Force does not have time to address in its 2018 report.

I strongly support HCR 157 HD1.

Thank you.

Michael Broderick



THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

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Robert H. Pantell, MD
Joshua A. Wisch

Date: April 4, 2017

To: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

From: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Comment on H.C.R. 157 H.D. 1
REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE
CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES
TO REDUCE THE DETAINEE AND INMATE POPULATION WHILE
PRESERVING PUBLIC SAFETY, LOWER RECIDIVISM, AND IMPROVE
HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

Good afternoon Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) respectfully submits the following comment on H.C.R. 157 H.D. 1, which requests the continuation of the Correctional Justice Task Force:

- SATC is concerned that the Correctional Justice Task Force does not specifically include government or community organizations that serve as victim advocates, and ask that the Committee please amend H.C.R. 157 H.D. 1 to request that such agencies and organizations that serve victims be included in the Task Force for all of its future proceedings.

The reform of incarceration policies to reduce the population of incarcerated persons is part of a general movement towards implementing evidence-based decision making policies and processes throughout the criminal justice system. The goals of such policies and processes are to apply science and research to (1) undo and prevent damage to communities caused by crime and its after effects; (2) reduce the creation and growth of "crime culture"; (3) prevent contagion of criminality from one generation to the next; (4) mitigate the high costs of incarceration; and (5) reduce distrust in the justice system by ensuring responsiveness to community, victim and offender needs.

The SATC strongly supports implementing evidence-based methods to improve incarceration processes with respect to these purposes, emphasizing the importance of applying necessary and appropriate sanctions that deter would-be criminals from committing offenses; restrain offenders to limit their opportunities to commit further

crime; prevent perpetrators from repeating their offenses or committing worse crimes in the future; and help victims and communities to recover from crimes.

While we believe that evidence-based methods to ensure effective detainment and incarceration practices with the least harm to society should be implemented, the lack of representation for the voices of victims of crime on this task force is troubling, as it departs from best practices and could consequently have a delegitimizing effect on any findings or recommendations made by the task force.

The United States Department of Justice's National Institute of Corrections, in its "Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems," specifically includes victim advocates and service providers among its list of key decision makers and stakeholders in the criminal justice system. This is consistent throughout the body of research and discussion concerning the evidence-based decision making movement. It is important that victims be represented and included in any dialogue involving the application of incarceration policies and principles on a statewide level.

We further believe that the SATC's inclusion in the task force would be particularly appropriate as the victims of sexual abuse and assault that we serve represent a substantial cross-section of our community that includes every age, race, nationality, culture and socio-economic group. We note that statistically, it is estimated that 19.3% of women and 1.7% of men are survivors of rape, and an estimated 43.9% of women and 23.4% of men have experienced other forms of sexual violence in their lifetimes.

By helping to ensure that criminal detainment and incarceration practices in the State of Hawai'i effectively address all of the harmful impacts of crime on our island communities, amendment of H.C.R. 157 H.D. 1 to include victim service agencies and organizations would represent a strong, positive step towards healing those affected by crime and preventing future offenses.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 2:20 p.m.
Place: Room 325
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.C.R. 157, H.D. 1, Requesting that the Correctional Justice Task Force Continue its Study of Effective Incarceration Policies to Reduce the Detainee and Inmate Population While Preserving Public Safety, Lower Recidivism, and Improve Hawaii's Correctional System

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in strong support of H.C.R. 157, H.D. 1, which would allow the Correctional Justice Task Force to continue its work rather than dissolving in 2017. Given Hawaii's astronomical incarceration rate, true criminal justice reform will require extending the life of the Task Force.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mandy Finlay
Advocacy Coordinator
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
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E: office@acluhawaii.org
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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 4, 2017
TIME: 2:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 325

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Strong support for HCR 157, HD1: REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES TO REDUCE THE INMATE POPULATION, LOWER RECIDIVISM, AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

We strongly support this measure to continue the task force's work to improve our approximately \$250 million a year corrections system that results in repeat crime, and prison over crowding, which endangers and harms our state, e.g., using public funds for incarceration takes scarce resources away from education, health, and housing needed for our community.

The task force is carefully studying our corrections problem and making recommendations that are vital when this legislature is making massive investments of public resources for new jail/prison construction.

We need unbiased consideration and research into what is in the public's best interests regarding corrections, which this task force has demonstrated it can provide by the excellent report it recently published.

The prison industry, including legislative lobbyists paid by private prison corporations, and those who work in and who helped build Hawai'i's corrections system, have biased interests conflicting with our community's best interests.

Please support this measure and continue the work to find solutions to Hawai'i's appalling corrections problems.

Please call (808) 218-3712 or email lorenn@hawaiifriends.org for comments or questions about our testimony supporting this resolution.

Mahalo for your time and public service. Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, Hawai'i Friends, executive director.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 8:16 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hlusk@chowproject.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM*

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	The CHOW Project	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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2017 9:42 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/2/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Strong support for HCR 157 HD1 which will allow the Correctional Task Force created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, S.D.1 to continue its work in seeking improvements regarding Hawaii's incarceration policies, correctional system, and the design of future correctional facilities. This was a large undertaking; the additional time will allow the Task Force to further enhance its work to identify much needed and long awaited strategies to address these improvements. Please pass HCR 157 HD1.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2017 9:13 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: maxinekla@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM*

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/2/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maxine Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ROBERT K. MERCE
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
808-732-7430

April 3, 2017

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Committee On Judiciary
State Capitol
415 South Beritania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing: HCR 157 HD 1
Committee On Judiciary
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Conference Room 325, 2:15 p.m.
STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Vice Chair Buenaventura

I strongly support HCR 157 HD 1 which would allow the Correctional Task Force created by the legislature last year to continue the important work it has been doing for an additional year. Task Force members have given freely of their time and expertise and are deeply committed to identifying and recommending policies and practices that will reduce our jail and prison populations, bring down our high recidivism rate (over 50%), rein in long term costs, and make our communities safer.

The key to successful correctional reform is to engage a broad segment of the community in collaborative reform process. The members of the HCR 85 represent diverse interests and have been working together in a collegial and productive manner for the past nine months. The Task Force has produced an interim report that outlines broad areas of reform, but it needs additional time to more fully develop its preliminary proposals and provide Hawaii with a realistic and meaningful roadmap to reform.

I strongly urge you to pass HCR 157 HD 1.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Bob Merce
HCR 85 Task Force Member

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 9:00 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: STRONG SUPPORT. Committee can learn from other states/countries' successes; obtain input especially from former inmates; families of inmates; any one working with criminal justice cases; and working with a mind set of rehabilitation instead of incarceration to reduce the inmate population and cost. The longevity of the task force is very important so they can finish their findings and recommendations to the Legislature. Mahalo for opportunity to provide my input for your consideration. e. ileina funakoshi

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: JUDtestimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM*

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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To: JUDtestimony
Cc: towno@lava.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A. Town	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I strongly support the passage of this measure. By continuing the process I believe best practices and evidence based practices will be surfaced and carefully considered. Balancing public safety and thoughtful cost control are not mutually exclusive. In fact other states and countries have done it well. Let me know if I can be of further assistance. Best in your deliberations. Judge Michael A. Town (retired)

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To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dkapua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR157 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

HCR157

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT HCR 157 HD1 - REQUESTING THAT THE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES TO REDUCE THE DETAINEE AND INMATE POPULATION WHILE PRESERVING PUBLIC SAFETY, LOWER RECIDIVISM, AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM. I appreciate that this Bill continues the good works of HCR 85 SD1 (2016) by extending it's deadline. Please PASS HCR 157 HD1 OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE, mahalo.

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LATE

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, April 4, 2017; 2:15 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Support for HCR 157, HD1, Relating to Correctional Justice Task Force; Judiciary; Recidivism; Inmate Population

Aloha, my name is Megan Kaleipumehana Cabral and I am a graduate student at UH Mānoa's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying in support of HCR 157 HD1.

I am currently completing my fieldwork at a substance abuse treatment facility, where I work with a large population of clients who have been recently incarcerated. Many of these same clients end up re-offending, and after doing some research I found that Hawai'i has a recidivism rate of close to 50%. According to the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions *2015 Recidivism Update*, the rate was 47.3% for parolees and probationers in the 2012 fiscal year. Additionally, our incarceration rates are high and our jails and prisons are overcrowded. The ACLU of Hawai'i filed a complaint earlier this year in regards to these issues. According Mateo Caballero (legal director for the ACLU of Hawai'i), "The conditions of jails and prisons in Hawaii have not improved in the last 30 years." We need more options in order to help improve our facilities, as well as reduce our recidivism and incarceration rates. Through HCR 157 HD1, the Correctional Justice Task Force has the opportunity to explore our current system and discover more effective policies and practices. Their study of incarceration policies would not only benefit those involved with the justice system, but our entire community in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Megan Kaleipumehana Cabral
mc808@hawaii.edu