

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 158
ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF THE
COMMUNITY-BASED WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FEMALE
INMATES TRANSITION BACK INTO SOCIETY.

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 23, 2017; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 158, which encourages the continuation and expansion of community-based work furlough programs to aid in the transition of female inmates back to the community. PSD has long recognized the importance of furlough programs for women and continues to apply its available resources towards the expansion of these programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
Interim Chair

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
MICHAEL A. TOWN
ANNELLE C. AMARAL
FITUINA F. TUA
MEMBERS

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HCR 158
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

By
Edmund "FRED" Hyun
Interim Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair

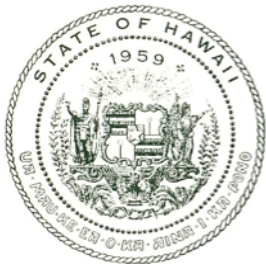
Thursday, March 23, 2017- 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

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

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports House Concurrent Resolution 158. This bill will provide female inmates the opportunity to transition back into the community through the work furlough program. Their participation in work furlough will better prepare them for the resocialization and reentry process and eventually transition smoothly to parole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 158

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

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Honolulu, HI 96813
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March 21, 2017

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Matthew LoPresti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

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

Re: Testimony in Support, HCR 158

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR 158, which encourages the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to continue and expand its community-based work furlough programs to assist in transitioning formerly incarcerated female inmates back into the community.

An overview of incarcerated women in Hawaii shows that the majority is incarcerated for committing non-violent crimes, many are mothers, and this population is disproportionately Native Hawaiian. Studies indicate community-based work furlough programs are effective in addressing problems associated with reentry and high rates of recidivism.

This measure also recommends that DPS consider Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine, an Oahu-based program that emphasizes a gender-responsive, culturally-sensitive and trauma-informed framework, as a model for future community-based work furlough programs. As the only community-based work furlough program in the State, this program has extensive experience in successfully transitioning formerly incarcerated women.

The Commission strongly supports HCR 158. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



HCR158
**ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY-BASED
WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FEMALE INMATES TRANSITION BACK
INTO SOCIETY.**

House Committee on Public Safety

March 23, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HCR158, which would urge the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to continue and grow its highly successful work furlough program for pa‘ahao women.

In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. This report found that between 1977 and 2008, the number of people incarcerated in Hawai‘i has increased by more than 900%,¹ and by 1,400% between 1977 and the present. The Native Hawaiian community has been particularly impacted by this increase, making up 40% of our prison population today; moreover Native Hawaiian women are penalized even more disproportionately, comprising 44% of our female inmate population.²

The 2012 Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report subsequently identified several factors exacerbating the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on Native Hawaiians. These included barriers to employment, housing, and reintegration into the community, which may lead to greater levels of recidivism by formerly incarcerated pa‘ahao.³ Community-based work furlough programs, such as Ka Hale Ho‘āla Hou No Nā Wāhine, may be critical to addressing these barriers. Such programs provide pa‘ahao with valuable opportunities to develop marketable skills, prosocial behaviors, and a positive work ethic, thereby increasing their ability to secure employment and find

¹ See THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 17 (2010), available at http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir_final_web_rev.pdf.

² In contrast, Native Hawaiians only represent 24% of the general public in Hawai‘i. *Id.* at 36. 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.” *Id.* at 10. 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.

³ See THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT 8, 20 (2012), available at http://lrhawaii.info/reports/legrpts/oha/2013/act170_slh11.pdf.

housing. Community-based reentry programs may also offer communal living arrangements for a transitional period, enabling pa‘ahao to find stability and support each other as they prepare to reintegrate with their communities. By addressing such common barriers to reentry, PSD’s community-based work furlough programs may significantly reduce recidivism rates, and should be supported for the betterment of our pa‘ahao and communities.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR158. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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YWCA Kokokahi
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(808) 247-2124

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

www.ywcaoahu.org

To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Matthew LoPresti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

Re: HCR 158 – 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 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m. -- Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in **strong support of HCR 158**, 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.

Our state is at a crossroads in regards to incarceration policies. Currently, House Concurrent Resolution Taskforce 85 is investigating effective incarceration policies. The interim report issued by the taskforce gave several recommendations but the first is “the State should begin to transition from a punitive correctional system to a rehabilitative, restorative, and therapeutic system.” Work furlough programs for women, like *Ka Hale Ho'āla Hou No Nā Wāhine* (The Home of Reawakening for Women), support this recommendation and several others made the taskforce.

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. Participants in work furlough programs are also more likely to find and retain employment 3-6 months post-release. 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.

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.

Community-based work furlough programs for women offenders can be **efficient and cost-effective in the long-term**. A Washington-based study found their work furlough program saw a \$3.82 benefit per dollar of cost. 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.

Kathleen Algire
YWCA O'ahu Advocacy Coordinator

Iopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:40 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR158 on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM

HCR158

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for PBS on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ann S Freed | Hawaii Women's Coalition | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Lo Presti, and members, The Women's Coalition has always supported programs to help women who have been incarcerated reform and reintegrate into our communities. The goal of a prison sentence should always be to reduce recidivism. Mahalo for this resolution. Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair Hawaii Women's Coalition

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March 23, 2017

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

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HCR 158 Encouraging the continuation and expansion of community-based work furlough programs
Hearing: Thursday, March 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m., Room 312

POSITION: Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of HCR 158:

ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY-
BASED WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FEMALE INMATES
TRANSITION BACK INTO SOCIETY

The vast majority of women are convicted for non-violent drug or drug-related offenses. Many of them are themselves victims of violence and use drugs to self-medicate in order to cope with the trauma. A trauma-informed, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive program model is effective in promoting recovery and successful reentry into the community.

Community-based programs are less expensive than incarceration and these programs also allow more successful transitions back into the community; reduce incarceration costs, and improve public safety by reducing crime. Studies show that community-based work furlough programs are successful at reducing the cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration.

Furlough and community-based programs have the potential to provide women with community supervision, medical care, drug treatment, reintegration programs, employment training and transitional services.

HSDWC supports programs that reduce recidivism, that improve successful reentry into the community, and thus improve public safety.

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.

We ask the committee to pass this measure and thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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YWCA Laniākea
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www.ywcaoahu.org

To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Matthew LoPresti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

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

Re: HCR 158 – 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 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m. -- Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Good morning Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti, 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 158**, 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. Participants in work furlough programs are also more likely to find and retain employment 3-6 months post-release. 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**. A Washington-based study found their work furlough program saw a \$3.82 benefit per dollar of cost. 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.



Noriko Namiki
CEO
YWCA O'ahu

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Matt LoPresti, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 23, 2017
10:00 am
Room 312



STRONG SUPPORT - HCR 158 - EXPAND WORK FURLOUGH FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti 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 approximately 1,700 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 measure. Most of the women are non-violent and are mothers.

On a macro-level, relying on incarceration to reduce disorder can undermine the development of more informal means of social control, which are important to the long-term prevention of crime.¹

Work furlough and extended work furlough are important strategies to help women with reentry and we urge the committee to support this resolution.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

¹ INCARCERATION, SOCIAL CAPITAL, AND CRIME: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THEORY (1998)
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-9125.1998.tb01255.x/abstract>

TESTIMONY

House Concurrent Resolution 158, ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY-BASED WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FEMALE INMATES TRANSITION BACK INTO SOCIETY.

House Committee on Public Safety

Thursday, March 23, 2017; 10:00 am; Room 312

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

I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of House Concurrent Resolution 158, concerning the continuation and expansion of the community-based work furlough program for women exiting the correctional system. It is the only such program in the State.

For more than 20 years, the Department of Public Safety has contracted furlough services for women to community providers. The success of Ka Hale Hou ala Hou No Na Wahine, administered by the YWCA Oahu, has a proven success record of assisting women in securing employment, permanent housing and reconciling with their families, in addition to significantly reducing recidivism.

It is important that the Legislature continue to support this program and the policy that post-incarceration community reintegration is best achieved through community-based programs away from correctional facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Martha Torney, MA

Retiree, Department of Public Safety

Iopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:11 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR158 on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM*

HCR158

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for PBS on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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Iopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:03 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR158 on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM*

HCR158

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for PBS on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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I am writing in support of bill HCR158. I work in the corrections field and primarily work with inmates on their transition back into their communities. There is an overwhelming lack of support for inmates who are released into their communities without any transition program or plan. There is a profound need for more resources and programs in place to support reintegration. When inmates step foot outside of the correctional facility they are already at a huge disadvantage because they lack any preparation to return back into their community. Furlough programs provide additional support to inmate's who are overwhelmed by the many obstacles they are faced in trying to successfully reintegrate back into their communities.

Offenders are often not aware of resources that do exist in their community. They usually lack essentials such as a birth certificate, social security card, medical, and state ID. Previous offenders also lack monies for essential things such as transportation, housing, food, and fees to order pertinent documents. Many offenders also lack preparation in how to search and apply for jobs, furlough programs can refer inmates to programs that can offer assistance in teaching vocational skills. Preparing inmates to be more competitive in the job market will increase previous offender's chances in securing a job and not recidivating. Furlough programs can guide inmates in the right direction and refer inmates to the proper resources for many of their different needs. These needs may include substance abuse or mental health services, housing, SNAP benefits, driver's license, medical, and many other services offenders need assistance.

In conclusion, I believe the continuation of women's furlough programs are essential in preparing and providing inmates with the support needed in removing the barriers listed above. Furlough programs are crucial in helping inmates successfully rejoin society. Furlough

programs work toward decreasing recidivism and increasing these individual's ability to make positive contributions to family and community.

Mahalo,

Chenoa Paiva

Chenoac@hawaii.edu

Iopresti1 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: barbarapolk@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR158 on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM

HCR158

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for PBS on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Polk | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I urge passage of this resolution to move toward greater work furlough opportunities for female inmates. Releasing women into the community without effective transition programs creates problems for them, as well as for the society at large. Ideally, women who do not pose a threat to the community should be given the opportunity to engage in work at the earliest opportunity, rather than being held in jail or prison and unable to maintain their relationships with their children and families. Please pass this resolution.

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Iopresti2 - Isabella

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 10:57 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: bautista.aprilk@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR158 on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM*

LATE

HCR158

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for PBS on Mar 23, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| April Bautista | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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7HY 500 6001

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2017
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 312

Subject: Strong support for HCR 158

Good morning Chair Takayama, Vice Chair LoPresti and members of the Committee. My name is Lorraine Robinson. I am a consultant for the YWCA of Oahu work furlough program for women exiting prison. For over 20 years, I served as Executive Director of TJ Mahoney & Associates (previous contractor for the women's work furlough contract). Having worked with women exiting prison for over two decades, I am certain HCR 158 will enhance the odds for successful community reentry and promote safer communities. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support **HCR 158**.

Successful transition from prison to the community is difficult at best. Programs such as the YWCA work furlough program help to provide a structured and supportive environment in which participants learn and practice pro-social life skills, obtain and sustain employment, learn budgeting, money management, and most importantly, learn and practice how to minimize and manage overwhelm, so as not to revert to previous behaviors which caused their criminal justice system involvement.

Women in the criminal justice system disproportionately come from backgrounds where there is a history of low educational achievement, trauma (including physical, emotional, sexual abuse), neglect, violence, addiction, incarceration, poverty, and many other recognized risk factors with few protective factors. This background creates a pathway to crime that includes trauma, substance abuse to self-medicate, addiction, crime and incarceration. Criminal justice involvement is intergenerational and unless addressed will continue to be perpetuated, creating huge social costs that impact our families and communities in devastating ways.

Programs such as the YWCA work furlough program reverse this vicious cycle and promote healthy, life sustaining trajectories for participants, enabling them to become contributing members of our communities. Research substantiates that successful community reentry for offenders means safer communities for all.

Please support HCR 158. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lorraine Robinson
YWCA of Oahu
Program Consultant
3/22/17