

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 614
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2017; 9:50 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 614 to delete the sunset provisions of Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012 that are applicable to PSD and the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

The Department also respectfully requests that SB 614 be amended to include funding to conduct the validation study, as required by Act 139.

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 SB 614 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

By
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Interim Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jll N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – 9:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chairs Keith-Aragan and Tokuda; Vice Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz; and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) is in support of Senate Bill 614 Relating to Public Safety, deleting the sunset provision for Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to make permanent provisions of the Act regarding pretrial risk assessments and parole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 614.



Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 9:50 a.m.
Place: Room 211
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 614, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of S.B. 614, which would permanently codify provisions of Act 139 establishing pretrial risk assessment tools.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports commonsense measures to reduce the imprisonment of those who have been accused of low-level offenses. Bail should be tailored to each case, factoring in considerations such as the ability of the accused to pay and an individual’s risk of harming others upon release. Pretrial detentions costs taxpayers thousands of dollars every year and further entrench legally innocent people in the criminal justice system. The ACLU of Hawaii supports this bill.

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.

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

9:45 am

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 614 - JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Aloha Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda and Members of the Committees!

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 bill.

Justice reinvestment is a data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending, and reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease crime and reduce recidivism. It is one strategy that Hawai'i can implement to start reforming our system and using our resources where they will do the most good and the least harm.

Overcrowding in jails and prisons is a growing concern and a situation that can lead to negative impacts for the public. One factor that contributes to overcrowding is the lack of or inefficient granting of parole. Another factor is the length of time that pre-trial offenders are held in custody. The Legislature addressed these problems in the Hawai'i Justice Reinvestment Initiative in 2012 and there is still much work to be done in implementing this successful program that has been embraced by the Department of Justice. This measure is to ensure the continued improvement of efficiency in parole decisions and pretrial risk assessment by making the Justice Reinvestment Initiative permanent.

The Department of Justice website¹ lists the 27 Justice Reinvestment states since 2010: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia.

Prior to the launch of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in 2010, six states undertook justice reinvestment efforts that have enriched and informed the JRI, including Arizona, Connecticut, Nevada, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Hawai`i has a great opportunity to address some of our most pressing problems with the full implementation of Justice Reinvestment and we thank the committee for hearing SB 614!

Mahalo for giving Community Alliance on Prisons this opportunity to show our strong support for Hawai`i's Justice Reinvestment Initiative law.

¹ JRI SITES, Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.
https://www.bja.gov/programs/justicereinvestment/jri_sites.html

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB614 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:58:18 PM

SB614

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We support this bill.

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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