

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.941.2231

Kokokahi YWCA
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
808.247.2124

Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 29, 2018, 10:50AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 2389 HD1 SD1

Thank you Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

The YWCA O'ahu **supports House Bill 2389 HD1 SD1**, which would make money available upon release.

This bill appropriates funding for "gate money", which although a small amount at \$200, will help people get from the gate to their first paycheck. People leave incarceration with nothing. If they were lucky enough to work while incarcerated, their meager 25 cent an hour earnings have likely been absorbed through restitution collection, purchasing necessary items, and expensive phone calls to maintain connections with family and friends. A small amount of money to get someone through their first few days is vital.

The YWCA O'ahu **respectfully requests that this committee report favorably on House Bill 2389 HD1 SD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration on this matter.

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
YWCA O'ahu

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan DelaCruz, Chair

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 29, 2018

10:50 am

Room 211

SUPPORT HB 2389 HD1, SD1 - THE "DON'T BLAME US" HPA BILL

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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 more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 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 Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports gate money along with resources and a reentry plan for those exiting incarceration. This bill does nothing, except to put in statute that the reason that no gate money is provided to individual's exiting incarceration is that the legislature never appropriated money for that purpose.

In our recollection, the Hawai'i Paroling Authority has never asked for an appropriation for gate money. Therefore, this bill is to hold them blameless for not providing gate money when they *could* and *should be* asking for an appropriation to help facilitate reentry.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*"There's a sense of permanence around the department labeling somebody as an offender.
There's no conclusion to the time that they are an offender."*

Dick Morgan

Washington state Acting Corrections Secretary

HB-2389-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 10:48:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: