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**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2389
RELATING TO PAROLE**

By
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chairman
Hawaii Paroling Authority

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

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

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) strongly supports House Bill 2389. This is an Administration Bill that seeks to provide clarity regarding the awarding of "GATE" funds by the Authority, which would be subject to legislative appropriations specific to this program. The lack of dedicated appropriations for this purpose prevents the Authority from awarding GATE funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2389.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 8, 2018

10:00 am

Room 312

HB 2389 - GATE MONEY - SUPPORT with AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates 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 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.

HB 2389 is an administration bill that specifies that funds for discharged persons be subject to legislative appropriation.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. The bill makes it clear that the legislature must appropriate funds for gate money. We cannot remember the Hawai'i Paroling Authority ever requesting an appropriation for this purpose. It would be great if they did, since they are a vital part of the reentry process.

Gate money alone, though, is not enough to assist an individual reintegrating into the community after spending time imprisoned. People need help adjusting to the "free world" and furnishing people with resources and referrals along with a little money can make the huge difference.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks that the following language be added to line 5 after "more than one year" and has been furnished with a discharge/reentry plan and resource referrals from the department of public safety before exiting incarceration, "the committed person may be furnished by the Hawaii paroling..."

A 2008 Urban Institute policy document advising states on release planning explained, “While a comprehensive, holistic approach to reentry planning – addressing the needs of incarcerated persons from the moment of admission through the months following release – is clearly the ‘gold standard’ toward which the field is progressing, a critical step in this process that has until now received relatively little attention deals with the preparation of an inmate for the hours and days immediately following his or her release from prison.”

“There’s not a lot of literature on this that I’m aware of or perhaps not even enough conversation,” said Ann Jacobs, director of the Prisoner Reentry Project at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. *“If you don’t get those [first days] right you don’t get a chance to get the rest right.”*¹

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates this measure and hopes that our amendment is adopted so that Hawai‘i can realize the benefits of properly preparing people for successful reintegration back to their communities.

Now we need the Hawai‘i Paroling Authority to request a budget so they can provide some immediate funding to folks exiting imprisonment along with the discharge/reentry plan and referral resources from the department of public safety. We will support that request!

*In matters of truth and justice,
there is no difference between large and small problems,
for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.*

Albert Einstein

¹ **The Prison Doors Open And You’re Released. You Have No Money Or Transportation. Now What?** NICOLE FLATOW, JUN 21, 2015
<https://thinkprogress.org/the-prison-doors-open-and-youre-released-you-have-no-money-or-transportation-now-what-442f6b067dfb/>



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 8, 2018, 10:00AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 312

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 2389

Thank you Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and committee members,

The YWCA O'ahu **supports House Bill 2389**, 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. Additionally, we support an amendment like the SD1 of this bill’s companion, which includes language on reentry practices. “Requiring that committed persons be given appropriate resource referrals before being furnished with funds to meet the committed person’s immediate needs by the Hawaii Paroling Authority at discharge”.

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

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

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



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

LATE

Representative Greg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuege Gates, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 8, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

HB 2389 Related to Parole (gate money). **Support with amendments.**

Sorry we are late with our testimony. We support this bill's goal to provide gate money to people leaving incarceration after one year. We recommend three amendments to this bill.

First, we believe all persons, not only those being discharged from parole, need assistance with funds to help them meet essential needs that is vital for them to lead law abiding lives. Second, we recommend that all incarcerated people in our state be offered the opportunity to apply for a *huikahi restorative reentry circle*.

The reentry circles were developed first in 2005 at Waiawa Correctional Center, and for the last ten years they have been provided at the Women's Community Correctional Center. They have been replicated in other states including New York, California, Pennsylvania and Washington DC. The circle process outcomes were evaluated independently by Chambliss criminology professor, Janet Davidson, Ph.D., and shown to significantly reduce recidivism compared to prison and parole. *Please see:* Walker & Davidson, 2018. Restorative justice reentry planning for the imprisoned: An evidence-based approach to recidivism reduction, In Gavrielides, T., (Ed.) *The Routledge International Handbook of Restorative Justice* (2018), along with brief explanation of research attached here. Numerous papers about the circles have been published.

Another important justification for providing the circles, is their power to assist the children of imprisoned parents to address the trauma of losing a parent, and to help them heal and move forward positively with their lives (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2666828, Walker, Tarutani & McKibben, 2015. Benefits of Restorative Reentry Circles for Children of Incarcerated Parents in Hawai'i. In *Promoting the Participation of Children across the Globe: From Social Exclusion To Child-Inclusive Policies*, Gal & Faedi-Duramy, (Eds.), Oxford University Press).

Finally, we believe this bill should be amended to ensure all individuals leaving prison for any amount of time, are provided information about resources in the community to meet their essential needs.

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice is a 30+ year old non-profit that works to generate evidence-based knowledge of what works to increase civic behavior, help people desist from crime, and assist those harmed by crime and social injustice. It has worked with imprisoned people since 2004. Numerous articles about its work have been published and disseminated. National and international governments and agencies frequently contact us for assistance with reentry programs and policies.

Mahalo for your public service. Please contact me at (808) 218-3712 and lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org for any questions about this testimony and our work. Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, Director

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HB-2389

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:23:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/8/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this bill. Hopefully, other resources will be provided upon reentry.