

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:14 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: kenneth.kan@outrigger.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Kan	Individual	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: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:02 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: sharon.crofts@boh.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Crofts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:02 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: tyler.greenhill@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017
Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Greenhill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and movements towards restorative justice. Incarceration is obviously not the answer to crime. Looking around the world to other solutions, restorative justice has worked wonders. And the LEAD program is a great example. Restorative justice is humane, cost effective, and actually works to solve crime, unlike incarceration and punishment. PLEASE, I ask that you support and approve SB108 and any future moves towards restorative justice and prison abolition. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:29 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: tulsigreenlee@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2017

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB 108 – RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it aims to divert homeless individuals from the criminal justice system and connect them with shelter and other social services, and provides comments. The State's strategy to address homelessness includes identifying and connecting with other systems that serve as "touch points" for the homeless, such as the criminal justice system, and aligning outreach and other services at particular entry/exit points (e.g. District Court) to divert individuals to housing.

The Coordinator notes that the Executive Budget includes an appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) to support a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot program, and asks for the Legislature's support of the Executive Budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require law enforcement agencies, including county police departments, to make personnel knowledgeable in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) approach and to implement this approach.

The State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness. The proposed LEAD approach addresses the public safety component of the homeless framework.

For many homeless individuals a history of criminal convictions or outstanding bench warrants for unpaid criminal citations can be a major barrier to obtaining housing. The implementation of the LEAD approach will prevent individuals from encountering these barriers by targeting individuals cited or arrested for nonviolent offenses that often result in arrest or bench warrants, and connecting these individuals to shelter and other social services. By providing needed services as an alternative to arrest or citation, the LEAD approach will divert individuals from the criminal justice system and create pathways to permanent housing.

The LEAD approach can work with other similar efforts, such as the Community Outreach Court pilot and DOH Jail Diversion Program, to divert homeless individuals away from the criminal justice system at different points in the process – pre-arrest, post-arrest, and after adjudication.

While the bill will require law enforcement officers be trained in and to implement the LEAD approach, the bill does not currently include an appropriation for services. It is critical that services for mental health and substance abuse treatment, as well as housing, be appropriately funded for the LEAD approach or similar diversion efforts to be successful. Accordingly, the Governor's Executive Budget includes \$20.9 million for homeless services, which specifically increases resources for homeless outreach, mental health and substance use treatment, and addresses housing through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing and the State Rent Supplement.

The Coordinator defers to DOH, the Department of Public Safety, and law enforcement agencies, in regard to specific operational issues and resources required. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, other Executive Branch agencies are responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless and housing programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 2:50 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: cnakamura@topa.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017
Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt Nakamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 1:20PM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229

LATE

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 108

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Waikai, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 108, relating to law enforcement. The purpose of the bill is to incorporate the principles of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) approach into state and county law enforcement practices. The LEAD program is a proven way to reduce incarceration, recidivism, and improve the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

LEAD is a community-based diversion program for low-level offenders. People are diverted from arrest or booking by immediately referring them to harm-reduction, non-abstinence based individualized case management. Instead of entering the criminal justice system, people are given the opportunity to have their immediate needs met. In Seattle, where the LEAD program originated, this opportunity produced very positive results. An evaluation of the program found participants were more likely to be housed and employed.¹ Additionally, participants who obtained housing and employment through LEAD had less recidivism six months post participation.

The program offers individualized case management services. The types of services accessed are entirely determined by individual participants and their case manager. The only requirement for being in LEAD is to complete an intake assessment within a specified period of time. After that the individual is free to walk away without repercussion. However, evaluation has shown that individuals were more likely to follow up on referrals made. The majority of people who participated in LEAD Seattle:

- Received basic need support (food or clothing)
- Completed individualized goal plan and achieved at least one
- Received chemical dependency treatment
- Received legal assistance
- Received assistance with obtaining an ID
- Received non-urgent medical care

LEAD has taken a very practical approach to the everyday problems faced by some of the most vulnerable people in the community. What makes this program different is that they address the issues of the whole person. It is a humane and compassionate way of helping members of the community and offering services to help meet their needs. **The YWCA O'ahu respectfully request the committee support Senate Bill 108 and the LEAD program in Hawaii.**

¹ Clifaseft, S., Lonczak, H. & Collins, S. (2016) *LEAD program evaluation: The impact of LEAD on housing, employment and income/benefits.*

http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/1185392/27047605/1464389327667/housing_employment_evaluation_final.PDF?token=cCX3L4ikUU3zGe%2B1ybt6FZAQS6k%3D

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:56 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: ricefed.ny@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017
Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mari Kita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Helping Hawai'i Live Well

February 6, 2017

TO: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Hawaii

LATE

RE: Testimony in support of SB 108

HEARING: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 1:20 PM CR 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 108**, which requires law enforcement agencies, including county police departments, to make personnel knowledgeable in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) approach and requires implementation.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 75 years ago that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service.

We support adoption and implementation of the LEAD approach as a program in Hawai'i that will reduce incarceration for low-level crimes related to behavioral health, including crimes related to drug addiction and untreated mental illness. LEAD would give people suffering from such conditions the opportunity for appropriate treatment, including housing assistance. We believe this will be more effective in helping people recover from addiction and mental illness than incarceration and reduce costs associated with arrest and incarceration for our community. LEAD will also give law enforcement personnel a new set of tools to work with to help people rather than repeatedly arresting them.

LEAD will have a significant positive impact on our community because the LEAD Hui, of which we are a member, is working to create a program that will follow the evidence-based success of the original LEAD program in Seattle, Washington. This program was rigorously evaluated and some of their outcomes, if duplicated, would be of great value to Hawai'i. This includes the following Seattle LEAD outcomes: 82% of participants were homeless and 40% of those were housed. 55% of participants received drug treatment through LEAD. These kinds of outcomes could really help alleviate our homelessness crisis and more importantly, reduce the suffering of people with behavioral health issues struggling on our streets.

We urge your support for SB 108. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. You can reach me at trisha@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



Committee: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 1:20 p.m.
Place: Room 229
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 108, Relating to Law Enforcement

Dear Chair Nishihara and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of S.B. 108, which would require law enforcement officers to implement the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (“LEAD”) approach.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports commonsense measures to reduce the imprisonment of those who have been accused of low-level offenses and implement a harm reduction approach to law enforcement. The LEAD program is an opportunity to foster trust between police officers and members of the public. Further, an evaluation of the Seattle LEAD Program has shown that the program can reduce rates of re-arrest, encourage people struggling with addiction to enter into treatment, and help formerly houseless individuals into shelter. The ACLU of Hawaii supports the implementation of the LEAD program, which could play a pivotal role in criminal justice reform for Hawaii.

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 Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522.5900
F: 808.522.5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:40 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: hlusk@chowproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM

SB108

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments: The CHOW Project strongly supports LEAD and appreciates the opportunity to testify on this measure. While we strongly support LEAD, we respectfully request that any pilot maintain fidelity to the best practices identified as effective in other jurisdictions. CHOW also strongly supports a community advisory committee to be involved in any pilot. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion is a community-based diversion program for people whose criminal activity is due to behavioral health issues. LEAD is a pre-booking or pre-arrest diversion program. In LEAD, low-level offenders for whom probable cause for arrest exists are diverted from arrest or booking by immediately referring them to harm-reduction, non-abstinence based, individualized case management. LEAD was intended to demonstrate that non-coercive and non-punitive approaches to currently illegal activities such as drug use and other activities that individuals engage in to obtain funds to purchase drugs (e.g. car prowls, mail theft, prostitution, shoplifting) can be more effectively and humanely addressed outside of the criminal justice system. The CHOW Project has convened a group of over 20 agencies dedicated to deleting and implementing a LEAD pilot on Oahu and appreciates the intent of this measure. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:18 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 6, 2017

LATE

To: **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS**
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Re: **SB108 — LEAD — hearing on Tuesday, Feb 7, 2017**

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and members of your committee,

This is an absolutely great bill involving proven practices that can change lives and potentially save millions of dollars for our state.

Although some wheels need to be reinvented to accommodate local ways, this doesn't appear to be one of them. Seattle's success with the LEAD program is downright astonishing, and if we achieve only a fraction of the gains made there, we'll still be way ahead of the game. It's one of those rare no-brainers that should make life easier and better for all here ... hurray!

I respectfully request that you pass this bill, and I look forward to tracking its progress through this legislative session.

Mahalo nui loa.

Aloha,



Peter Gellatly

Corrections Population Management Commission, 2004-2011
Penal Code Review Committee, 2015



pgellatly@mac.com • 808.542.8880

PO Box 88022 • Honolulu, HI 96830

LATE

Relating to LAW ENFORCEMENT

Testimony for SB108

I speak in support of this bill. New approaches to law enforcement must be entertained. We can no longer have a draconian “lock them up throw away the key” policy approach that create a population of individuals relegated to a life of second class citizenry. In addition, per research approximately 125 dollars per day is being spent on persons in custody awaiting trial. 50 percent of the population within OCCC fit this current category. From going to community meeting regarding incarceration and public safety, some persons arrested (primarily homeless or poor individuals) who are unable to pay \$50 or \$100 dollars fine will remain in custody. It would be of the best interest of this committee to consider that \$125 a day is approximately \$45,625 per year (based upon 125dollars x 365 days). Per month this amount totals \$3,802. Having individuals arrested for petty crimes being able to be released to a social service provider with supporting services would be far more cost effective than spending close to \$4,000 dollars per month keeping that person behind bars who is unable to pay for 50 or 100 dollars to be released.

This bill is part of the solution in promoting Harm reduction methods and strategies. The LEAD program is not a diversionary program per se, but will increase positive interface between Law Enforcement and the community and more importantly interface between law enforcement and person whom they might have encounters with. Places like Seattle has found success with the LEAD program. Hawaii such be the next champion of this policy. I strongly support this policy and also the companion Bill HB 535 within the House and, all other data driven harm reduction policy measures. This is not only a fiscally sound policy but also lead to better outcomes and a safer community.

Ken Farm (Speaking only for myself)

Member-At-Large

Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No 15

February 6, 2017

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 7, 2017
1:20 pm Room 229



STRONG SUPPORT SB 108 – LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION (LEAD)

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carrie Ann Shirota, and I am sharing comments on SB 108 given my work and research relating to criminal justice issues, with a focus on alternatives to incarceration. Over the past fifteen years, I have served in various capacities – as an Enforcement Attorney for the Hawai`i Civil Rights Commission, Deputy Public Defender, Program Director for MEO’s BEST Reintegration Program, Soros Justice Fellow, Faculty Counselor for a federally-funded Title III Native Hawaiian Program at the University of Hawai`i Maui College, Parents and Children Together Group Facilitator at Maui Community Correctional Center and currently as a Lecturer for UHMC. I have also been a member of Community Alliance on Prisons advocating for criminal justice reform in Hawai`i.

I strongly support SB 108 requiring law enforcement agencies, including county police departments, to make personnel knowledgeable in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) approach and requires law enforcement officers, including county police officers, to implement the LEAD approach.

Since last summer, the LEAD Hawai`i Hui has been working together to build the infrastructure in order to bring this successful program to Hawai`i to address some of our most pressing social challenges.

LEAD is a community-based diversion program for people whose criminal activity is due to behavioral health issues. LEAD is a pre-booking or pre-arrest diversion program. In LEAD, low-level offenders for whom probable cause for arrest exists are diverted from arrest or booking by immediately referring them to harm-reduction, non-abstinence based, individualized case management. LEAD was intended to demonstrate that non-coercive and non-punitive approaches to currently illegal activities such as drug use and other activities that individuals engage in to obtain funds to purchase drugs (e.g. car prowls, mail theft, prostitution, shoplifting) can be more effectively and humanely addressed outside of the criminal justice system.

As you are aware, Hawaii’s jails and prisons are severely overcrowded, and facing the real possibility of Federal Court oversight. For the past twenty-one years, Hawai`i has engaged in the “temporary” practice of exporting incarcerated

persons from Hawai`i to private for-profit prisons on the Mainland as a “temporary” response to overcrowding. In addition, our pre-trial population continues to increase exponentially due to outdated bail criteria that unfairly targets indigent persons and a lack of community based diversion programs.

In both instances, out-of-state transfers, and replacing or building new jails in Hawai`i are just simply band-aids, rather than real solutions! **The bottom line is that the overcrowding problem in Hawai`i is the result of deliberate policy-making decisions, NOT an implosion in crime rates.**

If we are genuinely interested in decreasing the incarcerated population and truly committed to bringing back prisoners transferred out-of-state, we would prioritize and implement effective policies and programs that reduce the number of persons entering the criminal justice system in the first place.

LEAD has proven effective in Seattle, as well as a growing number of jurisdictions. Let’s add Hawai`i to the list of jurisdictions that is willing to invest in a cost-effective program that focuses on DIVERSION, rather than incarceration.

Please pass SB 108.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shiota

Carrie Ann Shiota, JD
Haiku, Hawai`i 96708
Cashiota808@gmail.com

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 11:52 PM
To: PSMTTestimony
Cc: bwgreenhill@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
beth greenhill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support sb108.

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Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 10:19 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: kelli@at@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

LATE

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli Abe Trifonovitch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 9:47 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: 333cory@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM



SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Build up people instead of building up prisons! Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 9:25 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: julianna@actionwithaloha.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*

SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julianna Moefu-Kaleopa	Action with Aloha	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 8:05 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM*



SB108

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 7:39 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: egcarson@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM

SB108

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Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB 108 to provide human services instead of arrests for appropriate low level homeless offenders. It will help achieve better long run results for these people, as well as save significant costs for the state.

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HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Ho`o

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

February 4, 2017

LATE

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Testimony in Support of SB 108 Relating to Law Enforcement

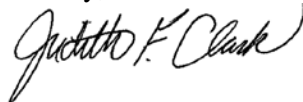
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 7108 Relating to Law Enforcement.

Use of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) approach could prevent minors who commit status offenses such as running away from home, being truant from school, or curfew violations from involvement in the juvenile justice system. These account for nearly half of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii.

Many youth who are arrested for misdemeanors or status offenses have untreated mental health or substance abuse issues, or family issues such as child abuse and neglect. This program could help these youth access the services they need and deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 9:20 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: nmedeiros@homeaid.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB108 on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM



SB108

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nani Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In Section 2 (b) of the measure, I recommend consideration be given to establish teams that would be deployed with special training in LEAD, and changing "may" to "shall." As the bill moves forward, more specificity is needed to give the pilot program the greatest chance of success, as well as the individuals participating.

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SB108

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I view this as feel good gobbledegook. Did any one bother to confer with Law Enforcement?

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LATE

SB108

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this new pilot program, LEAD - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion.

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Aloha Chair, senators,

My name is Will Caron and I'm speaking today in strong support of this bill on behalf of the Young Progressives Demanding Action, a community organizing group representing roughly 550 registered members. I want to share a brief story with you about a friend of mine who I met five years ago right after I graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The job market was poor and I ended up working at a restaurant in Waikiki to support myself while trying to find work as a journalist. At this restaurant, I met Marcus, who was working as a dishwasher.

Marcus is a wonderful human being, full of life and joy; he's kind-hearted, generous, gregarious, and always ready to flash a smile or make you laugh. He used to belt out in a deep, simulated baritone, the faux-operatic jingle from the J.G. Wentworth commercials as he carried dishes back and forth to wash.

Marcus spent several years in Halawa Prison before I ever met him. He was raised, ironically, right down the road from the prison, in a working poor family. With little opportunity or guidance, Marcus came into contact with the criminal justice system regularly and beginning at a young age, for things like truancy and vandalism. This contact with the criminal justice system increased the likelihood that he would re-enter the system at a later age significantly. It left him feeling angry and, as a teenager, contributed to poor decision making.

I want to reiterate that Marcus is a great guy with a kind heart. Therefore, his entry into an organized gang based out of the low-income housing projects in the area should be seen as a tragedy in this context. Even more so because his eventual incarceration into Halawa Prison was for a crime he did not commit. Rather, he was taking the fall for a higher up within the gang who had committed the crime. Marcus does not blame the gang for his incarceration. In fact, he still speaks of the gang with respect because, unlike the criminal justice system, the gang at least paid for his mother's rent and groceries while he was in prison. The gang took care of him more than our socio-economic system ever did, and made him feel included to a degree that our society routinely fails at for at-risk youth and other disenfranchised segments of our population.

But let's back track for a second. Imagine, if—when Marcus was still a teenager—his contact with law enforcement had resulted in a referral to a youth counseling program, such as the one Rep. Gates is proposing out on the West side of Oahu, instead of the juvenile justice system. Where might Marcus be right now in his life if he had received help, rather than further disenfranchisement? This is what the LEAD strategy can help to provide: To steer people like Marcus, who are perhaps headed down a destructive path, back onto a course that supports them and their communities.

And Marcus was one of the lucky ones, to be honest. He has a job, even if it is as a dishwasher; he has a family; he has housing; he has an entrepreneurial mind and a positive attitude. And I don't doubt that he'll be alright in this life. But many are not so fortunate. And the cost to our society in lost productivity, destructive behavior, in healthcare costs is far too high. Money spent on incarcerating low-risk, non-violent offenders should be diverted to programs like LEAD, which can take a proactive approach to reducing crime, recidivism and our over-crowded prison facilities.

Everyone here, I would guess, knows someone like Marcus. A friend, a relative, a classmate, a coworker who has slipped through our society's safety nets. This is a community-wide problem, and it

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SB108

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 7, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebekah Ellis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the introduction of a LEAD pilot in Hawaii. This program has been shown to save tax payer dollars by proactively diverting individuals from jail and into community services. The LEAD program could also be a great way to address our state's homeless problem, as 40% of homeless LEAD participants have ended up in housing.

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