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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2820, SENATE DRAFT 1
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Thursday, March 15, 2018; 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** Senate Bill (SB) 2820, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which would allow PSD to continue to house the 248 Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) inmates out-of-state while the critical HCF Security Electronics and Hardware Repairs and Improvements project (DAGS Job No. 12-27-5644) is completed this year.

This DAGS project encountered a significant delay and is now projected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2018. Funding for the temporary housing of the 248 HCF inmates was provided through December 2017 only, and SB 2820 requests emergency supplemental funds for the current fiscal year's budget, to house these inmates for another six (6) months, through June 30, 2018. In SB 2820, PSD requested funding in the amount of \$3,361,139 in general funds for PSD 808 – Non-State Facilities – to cover the housing costs for the HCF inmates, to continue this critical project and see it to completion this year.

The Department respectfully requests the Committee on Public Safety amend SB 2820, SD 1 to restore the \$3,361,139 appropriation amount.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

SB-2820-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:35:17 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/15/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Mahalo.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2018

10:30 am

Room 312

OPPOSE SB 2820 SD1 - CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH PROFITEERS OF MISERY

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 all the people who have died in our facilities including, JESSICA FORTSON, JOEY O'MALLEY, DAISY KASITATI, ASHLEY GREY. and 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 opposes the continued trafficking of human beings to CCA/CoreCivic or any other corporate prison.

This work at Halawa has been an "on again/off again" issue for many years and each time the solution was to ship more folks out of Hawai'i instead of tackling the difficult issue of reforming policies that incarcerate people rather than addressing the pathways that lead people there. The February 2019 population reports that the number of males incarcerated by the state is 2,914 ... and 1,575 are serving sentences in AZ. That is 55% of our male population!

As of July 2017, there were 255 men classified as COMMUNITY OR MINIMUM custody in Saguaro - a MEDIUM security prison. Mixing populations is against all correctional best practices. It is, in fact, a formula for feeding the very hungry perpetual prisoner machine. The burning question is: **Why does Hawai'i want to build a huge criminal underclass?**

Community Alliance on Prisons supports a fair, open, and transparent JUSTICE system, not a CRIMINAL PROCESSING system. Please stop funding this human trafficking and do what many RED states are doing successfully: reforming a broken system by enacting bold policies.

"You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."

William Wilberforce

LATE



Aloha Chair Takayam, Vice Chair Gates, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

The Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i **strongly oppose** SB2820 SD1. The governor will claim this bill, which would fund the housing of 248 Halawa correctional facility (HCF) inmates in a private prison while HCF renovations (which are behind schedule because the state hired a bad contractor) are completed, is a necessary evil that we have no choice but to do. We believe the situation highlights not only the exorbitant cost of incarcerating inmates, whether in a state-owned or private prison, but also the poor policy of relying on incarceration as the primary form of punishment in our criminal justice system.

We also believe that the solution to this problem lies not in emergency appropriations and the construction of new, \$600 million facilities to house more inmates, but in funding restorative justice programs, alternative rehabilitation programs—especially those tied to agriculture, land and identity, the expansion of parole programs, mental health and drug treatment programs, housing solutions, tax credits for low-income people and an increase in the minimum wage.

I know this is PBS, and you might say some of those things are not within your purview, but I mention them because we have got to start recognizing these societal problems as connected: poverty and crime; drug abuse and disconnection from land and identity. It is our belief that those 248 Halawa inmates can, and must, be housed here in Hawai‘i, and in a public facility. By advancing other criminal justice reform bills before you today and still others that have yet to see a hearing, we can reduce the population of our jails and prisons through programming and can, therefore, shelter our incarcerated population in our existing facilities.

At a cost of \$13,487 per inmate, to say nothing of the human cost, this bill represents the encapsulation of our problematic criminal justice system. And although it sounds like a necessity, we call upon the governor and the legislature to work together to find creative solutions to the immediate, 248-bed problem that keep our incarcerated people near their families, near the land they identify with, and out

of the most egregious form of the prison industrial complex—the privately run prison. This is our kuleana as a society. It is our recommendation, therefore, that this committee kill this bill immediately and do everything in its power to pass true reform legislation that will reduce the incarcerated population and free up beds in other facilities where these inmates may be temporarily housed until HCF is renovated.

Please do the sensible thing and kill this bill.

Mahalo,

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i

LATE

SB-2820-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:46:17 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/15/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Hawai`i Justice Coalition	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawai`i Justice Coalition is comprised of organizations and individuals united in our work to reduce overcrowding in our jails and prisons through comprehensive criminal justice policies.

This measure proposes to make an emergency appropriation to provide moneys for the Department of Public Safety to temporary house 248 inmates at a non-state facility for an additional 6 months, during performance of capital improvements to the Halawa Correctional Facility.

We oppose this bill as it continues to expand the jail and prison industrial complex by exporting our incarcerated population to non-state facilities, rather than reducing the inmate population in the first place. New York, New Jersey PBS, FIN and California have successfully reduced their incarcerated population from 8,000-40,000 persons within a period of six-eleven years through SMART JUSTICE policies.

If New York, New Jersey and California can reduce their imprisoned population by the thousands, we can surely find a way to reduce the prison population by several hundred at Halawa. In turn, this would save taxpayer dollars, avert the need to contract with non-state facilities and reduce overcrowding at Halawa.

In summary, please hold this bill!

SB-2820-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:15:30 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/15/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

In STRING SUPPORT.