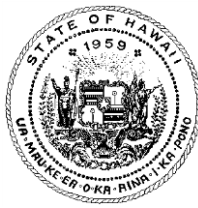


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2018; 10:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** Senate Bill (SB) 2820, 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. PSD is requesting 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i **strongly oppose** SB2820. 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—what a surprise) 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 PSM, 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.

Mahalo,

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

**SB-2820**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 9:53:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.