

LATE

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

1:15 pm

Room 229

COMMENTS on SB 2820 – \$3.3 million to Banish Halawa Individuals to Arizona

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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.

SB 2820 makes an emergency appropriation to provide funds for the Department of Public Safety to pay for the temporary housing of 248 inmates at a CORPORATE non-state facility for an additional six months, during work on capital improvements to the Halawa Correctional Facility, under DAGS Job No. Job No. 12-27-5644 – security electronics and hardware repairs and improvements.

These repairs have been in the works for many, many years, which urges us to ask for an amendment.

AMENDMENT – Page 2, after Line 15:

The department shall file a report with the 2019 legislature outlining the expenditures and work orders for the repairs and upgrades. If the work is not yet completed, the department shall file a report outlining the expenditures and completed work and explaining the reason for the delay and listing what work remains to be done.

The legislature should not allocate money to this department without requiring a report.

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Now the department needs money to banish the 248 individuals from one module of Halawa to Saguaro for 6 12 months.

Community Alliance on Prisons wonders, Cui Bono? Who benefits? (Besides CoreCivic/CCA)

As of July 2017, there were 255 Hawai`i individuals classified as Minimum and Community custody in Saguaro, a MEDIUM security prison. What the heck are they doing there?

Please ask questions. What this department gets away with is absolutely outrageous and insulting to the good people of Hawai`i nei.

Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure.

James Altucher

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SB-2820

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:12:39 AM
Testimony for PSM on 1/30/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans		Comments	No

Comments:

What a huge sum of money to spend on incarcerating our people out-of-state in private prisons! This bill is a perfect example of why we must focus on reducing our jail and prison populations through SMART justice. Please look at what has worked in other jurisdictions and start NOW to enact those policies and reforms that will reduce incarceration in Hawaii. The solutions are there and have already been proven and are much cheaper in the long run!

Thank you-

Raelyn Reyno Yeomans

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SB-2820

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:01:09 AM
Testimony for PSM on 1/30/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons		Support	No

Comments: