

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2020

FEB 14

RE: H.B. No. 1972
H.D. 2

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1972, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL RELEASE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a medical release program within the Department of Public Safety for certain ill, disabled, or impaired inmate who pose a low risk to public safety.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Public Safety, Office of the Public Defender, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Community Alliance on Prisons, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center, and five individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Your Committee finds that correctional facilities in this State are housing a growing number of elderly inmates who often have extensive medical needs. Your Committee further finds that this measure strikes an appropriate, compassionate balance when considering whether an inmate's medical condition and the low risk to public safety warrant the inmate's release before the expiration of the inmate's sentence. Your Committee believes that this measure creates a system of checks that will be protective of the public while reducing the costs associated with continuing to



house a functionally declining, and in some cases terminally ill, population.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1972, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1972, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,


CHRIS LEE, Chair



