



HB1901
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho'okolokolo

Pepeluali 24, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Lumi 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1901, which would clarify that the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission's (Oversight Commission's) statutory responsibilities include ensuring that the Department of Public Safety's (PSD's) comprehensive offender reentry system enables inmates to meet all parole requirements at the earliest time they may be eligible for parole. This measure would provide a simple amendment to the codified language of Act 179, Session Laws 2019, to better align with the recommendations of the HCR85 Task Force on Prison Reform, as well as the overall intent of Act 179.

The HCR85 Task Force on Prison Reform, in its 2018 report, called for the establishment of an Oversight Commission to assist in transitioning our correctional system from a punitive model to a rehabilitative and therapeutic one. In creating the Commission, and consistent with the recommendations of the HCR85 Task Force Report, the legislature in Act 179 tasked the Commission with working with PSD on its comprehensive offender reentry program, ensuring that the overall comprehensive offender reentry system is working properly, and ensuring that the inmate population for PSD's facilities do not exceed their capacity. The amendment provided for in this measure would more consistently reflect the overall goals of the Commission as envisioned in the HCR85 Task Force Report and as intended by the legislature, by clarifying that the Commission seek to ensure that PSD's comprehensive offender reentry system effectively rehabilitate and prepare pa'ahao for parole at their earliest eligibility; such an amendment would emphasize the need for a properly working reentry system that can provide the greatest and most timely relief to the overcrowded conditions burdening our correctional facilities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1901. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Kalani Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Monday, February 24, 2020

2:00 PM – Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1901 - OVERSIGHT COMMISSION & REENTRY

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 families of **JAMES BORLING SALAS, ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE**, including the eleven (11) people that we know of, who have died in the last six (6) months. We also remind the committee of the approximately 5,200 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day and we are always mindful that more than 1,200 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.

HB 1901 clarifies that the comprehensive offender reentry system provides programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the minimum term, rather than the maximum term, has been served by the inmate.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure that corrects an error in the original legislation (HB 1552 - Act 179) and emphasizes the responsibilities of the Correctional Oversight Commission in investigating complaints, facilitating the transition from a punitive to therapeutic model, establishing the maximum population at facilities, monitoring the reentry and parole system, and working to ensure that the system is providing programs and services that will result in individuals timely release at their minimum terms. The oversight coordinator shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 91.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 5:19:26 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1901 which is a bill to correct an error in the Oversight Commission legislation (HB 1552 – Act 179) to state that Hawai`i should provide services so folks can be released at their minimum sentence, not the maximum.

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 11:22:36 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Luke, Rep. Cullen, and Committee Members,

· This is 'housekeeping' bill to correct an error in the Oversight Commission legislation (HB 1552 – Act 179).

The bill should have said that Hawai`i should provide services so folks could be released at their minimum sentence, but inadvertently said 'maximum'.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 11:48:12 PM
Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:12:53 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass HB 1901 that would amend the law to clarify that programs and services are provided to incarcerated persons to ensure their timely release when their MINIMUM terms of imprisonment is served.

We are sending too many people to jail and prison for too long. While we should prioritize diversion and reducing the incarcerated population through various Justice Reinvestment strategies, we should simultaneously provide rehabilitation and therapeutic services while a person is incarcerated. Failing to provide these services has contributed to delays in release far beyond an individual's minimum sentence.

Please remedy this injustice and enact HB 1901.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 8:07:45 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments: