

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

10:00 AM - Room 430

SUPPORT for HB 1901 - OVERSIGHT & REENTRY

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 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 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.

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:22:44 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 1:12:23 PM
Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Johnson	Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

HSAC supports that services be made available or a treatment plan initiated for offender reentry processes when the minimum term is reached rather than the maximum so as to promote reentry planning for those released earlier.

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 4:58:36 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Boehm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 5:58:08 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheree revilla	island integrated health	Support	No

Comments:

We support

LATE

HB-1901

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 7:52:56 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erika Vargas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE



**HB1901
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Palekana Lehulehu, Nā Koa Kahiko, a me ke Kuleana Pū'ali Koa

Pepeluali 12, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Lumi 430

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.