



STATE OF HAWAII
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 320
RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY.

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 13, 2019; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 320, which will require PSD to issue certificates of completion to offenders who have completed a prison rehabilitative program with an established curriculum, such as, substance abuse, mental health, sex offender, vocational, religious, nutritional, or other program conducted by PSD or a service provider contracted by PSD.

The Department presently maintains careful records of inmate achievement, as these are key to determining the inmate's progress in working towards furlough and other reentry programs. The issuance of certificates would formalize the current process and serve as recognition of an inmate's achievement and forward progress. PSD notes that certificates of completion are commonly issued at other correctional institutions and has no objection to establishing the practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
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ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 320
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY
BY
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chairman

House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 10:00a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Asuega, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) opposes House Bill 320, which seeks in part to have the Department of Public Safety provide verification of completed rehabilitative programs by the former inmate to the potential employer. Included in the list of "rehabilitative programs" are substance abuse, mental health, sex offender programs, and others. HPA's concerns are with the release of potentially protected health care and/or treatment information as it relates to substance abuse, mental health, sex offender treatment programs, and any other rehabilitative program where the program provided treatment that is considered protected under State and/or Federal law.

As written, House Bill 320 does not address how the information will be used by the potential employer, what the potential employer will do with the information, and does not prevent potential employer from disseminating and/or sharing the information with others as no disposition regarding the release of the information is provided. Further, no penalties are listed for the unauthorized release of the information by potential employers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 320.



February 5, 2019

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 430
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: H.B. No. 320, Relating to Offender Reentry

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and Members of the of the Committee:

Johnson Control Industries (JCI) provides products and solutions to its customers to create intelligent buildings, efficient energy solutions, and integrated infrastructure creating greater value for all of our stakeholders through strategic focus on our buildings and energy growth platforms. Also a leader in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry, JCI is not only committed to supporting Hawai'i Public Safety Department (PSD) which oversees Hawai'i's correctional facilities (prisons and jails) through better physical environments, we also believe in training and inspiring offenders to develop successful HVAC careers and reduce recidivism to help create brighter futures for offenders. JCI has developed and deployed a successful and unique HVAC program that is delivered in a number of correctional facilities where we have partnered on energy efficiency systems in the United States and Canada.

JCI supports H.B. No. 320 and believes in rehabilitation opportunities for those who are part of the correctional system. With 95% of all offenders returning to our communities, we believe that successful vocational programs help offenders prepare for re-entry & employment.

We urge the committee to pass H.B. No.320, and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Mike E. Enzler



Mike E. Enzler

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Greg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

10 am

Room 430

SUPPORT w AMENDMENT - HB 320 - 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 **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as 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 more than 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.

HB 320 requires the department of public safety to issue certificates to incarcerated persons who complete rehabilitation programs.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure and suggests the following amendment:

On Page 1 - lines 6 and 7:

~~6 shall provide a certificate to the inmate no later than the
7 earlier of the inmate's parole or release date.~~

REPLACE WITH:

6 shall provide a certificate to the **incarcerated person**
7 **at the completion of the rehabilitation program.**

Program completion is an achievement and these certificates mean a lot to people who have completed programs - in many cases, it has been the first recognition a person has received!

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to pass this bill,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

HB-320

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 8:29:45 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/13/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-320

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:10:42 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/13/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NANCY JONES	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB320

Aloha Rep. Takayama and Rep. Gates and Honorable Committee Members:

We present this testimony supporting HB320 to amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes to require that the Department of Public Safety issue certificates of completion for any rehabilitation program that an inmate completes. These types of certificates provide valuable evidence to potential employers a willingness on the part of former inmates to move forward in their lives and avoid prior mistakes that caused their incarceration. In addition, these certificates serve as a means to track an inmate's positive progress through and out of Hawai'i's penal system. Hopefully, these certificates -- in either electronic/PDF or hard-copy form -- will then prevent an inmate's likelihood for re-incarceration. For these reasons, among others, we respectfully urge your committee to please pass HB320 out of your committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of this important legislation.

HB-320

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 2:45:32 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/13/2019 10:00:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL!