



**Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans,
and Military Affairs**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 10:30 A.M.
Conference Room 430, State Capitol**

RE: SB 3126 SD1, RELATING TO PRISONS

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3126 SD1, which establishes a four-year pilot program and working group within the Department of Public Safety to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates and requires reports to the Legislature.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber continues to support the State's efforts to promote innovative education and workforce development initiatives within our state. Currently, 49.6% of convicted felons in Hawaii will return to prison within one year of being released. This directly contributes to rising concerns regarding prison overpopulation, in addition to the steep financial burden imposed on both the State and local taxpayers. The Chamber recognizes the importance of offering educational resources during incarceration that will provide inmates with the necessary skills to successfully reintegrate back into society and gain employment.

Additionally, studies have shown that providing higher education programs to inmates translate to lower recidivism rates, reductions in crime, and the fostering of stronger, safer communities. Formerly incarcerated individuals are also an often overlooked and underutilized workforce demographic. Implementing these educational programs and initiatives during incarceration could in the long-term, aid in alleviating Hawaii's workforce shortages as well as contribute to strengthening our local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIR

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

10:30 AM - Room 430

STRONG SUPPORT for SB 3126 SD1 - PILOT PROGRAM - BUSINESS EDUCATION

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.

SB 3126 establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives and appropriates funds. The SD1 clarifies that members of the working group shall be selected by the Director of Public Safety, who shall serve as chairperson, and that the working group shall submit to the Legislature an interim report (2022) and a final report on the status of the pilot program (2024).

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Programs like this are another strategy to reduce recidivism. Education is the route out of poverty and incarceration.

Our concern, however, is the recent experience with the University of Hawai'i's 4-year HREPS (Hawai'i Research and Evaluation in Public Safety) where the data collected was whitewashed by the department. The data was all kept secret until a Senate hearing forced the department to release some material to the public. \$4 million of taxpayer money was spent and still, there is no usable data!

The contract should be overseen by the Correctional Oversight Commission before it is finalized to ensure that the information and data collected will be publicly available on the department's website. This is a good bill that needs proper oversight.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3126-SD-1

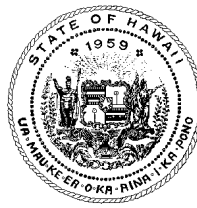
Submitted on: 3/10/2020 1:22:56 AM

Testimony for PVM on 3/11/2020 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Shari L. Kimoto
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3126, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PRISONS.

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

March 11, 2020; 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 3126, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which establishes a 4-year pilot program to reduce recidivism by providing inmates with the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce and provides appropriate funding.

PSD welcomes all proactive and prosocial programs that are provided by the community to reduce recidivism and create more opportunities for individuals being released from correctional institutions. Evidence-based practices have shown that inmates participating in education and programs prior to release, are less likely to return to prison.

If passed, the Department will meet with and collaborate with post-secondary educational institutions such as the University of Virginia Darden School of Business to learn more about its curriculum on establishing a business, entrepreneurial, and financial literacy program. PSD looks forward to increasing post-secondary programs in our facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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DWIGHT K. NADAMOTO
ACTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



LYNN B.K. COSTALES
ACTING FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

LATE

**THE HONORABLE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i**

March 11, 2020

RE: S.B. 3126, S.D. 1; RELATING TO PRISONS.

Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 3126, S.D. 1.

The purpose of S.B. 3126, S.D. 1, is to establish a new pilot program that would provide additional educational opportunities for Hawaii's prison inmates, with a focus on business, entrepreneurial and financial literacy. The Department has always been in favor of the establishment, continuation & expansion of services and opportunities available to inmates, as a potential means of reducing recidivism and providing meaningful alternatives to returning the exact same circumstances that may have led an offender to commit the offense(s) for which they are currently incarcerated. Our hope is that S.B. 3126, S.D. 1, would not only address the need of more programs and services, but also be incorporated into the "transitional phase" for offenders as they prepare for work furlough and/or reintegration back into the community.

If S.B. 3126, S.D. 1, could be further expanded from offering business, entrepreneurial and financial literacy programs, to also offer various other trades and vocations, the Department believes that that would be of great value as well.

For all the reasons above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage S.B. 3126, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LATE

SB-3126-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 5:51:04 PM

Testimony for PVM on 3/11/2020 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representative Takayama, Representative Gates, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB3126 SD1. Education is the pathway to successful reentry into society upon release from prison. If we continue to warehouse people without offering programs that will help them succeed when they return to the community, then everyone suffers and recidivism costs will continue to drain state coffers.

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill and promises to work with secondary institutions to implement the 4-year program. Please ensure that the department follows through on its promise,

This bill is based on a program from another jurisdiction. Hawaii would do well to learn from other programs that are working in other parts of the country and try to emulate them.

Please pass SSB3126 SD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

SB-3126-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:51:13 PM

Testimony for PVM on 3/11/2020 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danisha Garrison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

OPPOSING S.B. 3126 SD1

RELATING TO PRISONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

Dear Chair Greg Takayama, vice chair Asuega Gates, and members of the committee:

My name is Danisha Garrison and I am a current Master of Social student attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in opposition of S.B. 3126 Relating to Prisons, which Establishes a four-year pilot program and working group within the Department of Public Safety to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Appropriating funds for a business education program for inmates is a waste of money when there are so many other factors contributing to their recidivism. Recidivism is not just due to lack of employment after an inmate is released, but also mental health, and their lifestyle factors. How can you teach someone business education when you are not stabilizing their mental health and teaching them coping strategies and life skills to help them when they return to society?

It is estimated that 31 percent of females and 14.5 percent of males have a serious mental health issue. These mental health issues are not being addressed or treated during their prison stay, which in turn is the reason they continue to be repeat offenders. Stabilizing their mental health, teaching life skills, and self-discipline, should be offered to help these persons. What good is having employment or certifications and degrees if your mental health is not intact? What will a business curriculum do to help this overwhelmingly vulnerable population, in my opinion nothing? There are so many other things this money can be used for to help inmates and a business degree is not on of them.

How is it that funds can be appropriated to give a FREE education to inmates, but tax paying citizens are working hard and taking out loans to afford their 4-year higher education? According to the proposed bill, the state pays \$52,000 per inmate a year, which inmates do not have to reimburse the state for their free shelter, medical care, and meals. I find it interesting that the state allocates funds to needy families via TANF benefits that has to be paid back through child support payments from absent parents, but an inmate does not have to pay the state back for the monies used to house their prison stay.

If funds are going to be appropriated to help this vulnerable population, why aren't there any programs put in place for preventative treatment to deter from committing crimes initially? Invest in impoverished communities with vulnerable populations and maybe, just maybe these people will not have to commit crimes to survive in their environment. You cannot fix the problem at the end if you never get to the root.

Again, I am **OPPOSING S.B 3126** relating to prisons. I am not against helping this population, I just know there are better ways to help them and it has to start with addressing their mental health, substance abuse, and environmental issues.

Thank you,

Danisha Garrison

MBA | Resilience Education Testimonies

Darden Business School

LATE

March 11th, 2020

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Adam Doyle, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons. Scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to teach in Darden programs while an MBA student. I graduated in 2018 and now am a Director of a Technology Consulting firm. I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand how the Darden Entrepreneurship program helped my students by showing them that there are other choices in life that they can make when they return to their lives post-prison, and that they can build a business and be a part of a community by giving them an actual road map to do so. A university partner is so important, as it's not a clear-cut program anyone can follow, and only because we were part of a university and support was provided from the students, it allowed for dynamic and truly caring engagement. That went both ways and the honest genuine concern and trust put in us as teachers because we were there helping the inmates to start a new life and find their way to not go back to prison showed them true investment in their success. This also got the students, who will go on to be upstanding leaders in the community, to see that no one is beyond helping and that just because inmates had made previous mistakes, that they are still human beings with a will do be better and do better. That makes for lasting investment and advocacy and supports their success both in prison and afterwards as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,

Adam Doyle

Charlottesville, VA



Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Timothy Lu, and I'm writing to express my support of the Four-Year Pilot Education

Program to reduce recidivism in Hawaii. Over the last 6 months, I have participated as a volunteer educator in the Entrepreneurship module facilitated by Resilience Education (Virginia). Our curriculum matches and mirrors that of a world-class Business School – covering Marketing, Finance, Operations, and Leadership subjects, to name a few. However, the power of such an education initiative goes beyond the transaction of practical skills that map to the functions of an enterprise. I have seen firsthand how this brand of Case-based education can serve as a gentle but effective forcing mechanism for students to develop clarity of personal purpose and a deep sense of self-awareness in preparation for their reentry into society.

I can best illustrate this with an anecdote from a class discussion I facilitated in one Entrepreneurship class. The students were asked to read *The Great Gatsby*, a classic novel that follows the fictional events of Jay Gatsby, whose “greatness” stems from his ability to turn ambition into wealth. The story ends tragically as Gatsby falls victim to the pitfall of unbridled passion (for Daisy). My co-teacher and I took this unique teaching opportunity with our students to kickstart a discussion on what “Daisy” could stand for in our own lives. Money, reputation, and love were a few of their thoughtful responses. In engaging with our teaching content, students had laid a critical foundation for self-examination of personal character traits. We pushed forward to talk about what that looks like in practice.

Humility. Authenticity. Trustworthiness. These are a few of the attributes that students were eager to discern and discuss with each other. They probed one another on how they intend to seek and identify people with these characteristics after prison. They searched each other's stories for examples of demonstrating and upholding these qualities when faced with tough decisions. They reflected on what it meant to become masters of Self-control, Integrity, and Determination – in the context of business, family, and society. I hoped students would dig deeply into their “Why”, and even articulate their personal purpose as it relates to the business they'd one day start. In short, I was blown away.

In the 60 minutes that followed, I listened intently to our students reflect on the hard skills we'd taught them in previous weeks and integrate them with the soft skills (and life perspectives) covered from the readings and our current class discussion.

One student spoke about purpose: “I want my legacy to be about helping other people change and improve their situations. That's because I've been on my own personal journey in prison and I think I can help a lot of folks out there.” Another tackled a specific character trait head on: “It takes a lot of humility – something I didn't have when I got back from Afghanistan. My ego was so bad. Combined with all the stress I experienced in war, I got into a lot of trouble. My wife and friends told me they couldn't even recognize me. That's why when I get out (of Dillwyn), I'm going to work on myself so that my business can help other people.” A third student vocalized commitment to turn promise into reality: “Everyone looks at me and thinks I'm the lowest in society. I'm a prisoner, man. I refuse to let this be my legacy, which is why I'm



going to take what I've learned here at Dillwyn and show my friends and family how different of a man I can become."

The personal takeaways from these teacher-student engagements are significant, but on a macro-level, what is more clear than ever is this: Incarcerated individuals are hungry for both practical workplace skills and self-reflection. Through education programs like the Darden/Resilience Entrepreneurship curriculum, we have the means to provide both in big ways. Dozens of former students testify to the fact that it works – as many have found meaningful employment and discovered their purpose to enable true personal transformation. I urge this Committee to weigh and consider this opportunity today with the passing of SB 3126 in order to enable more opportunities for Hawaii's incarcerated population as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

Sincerely,

Timothy Lu

Charlottesville, VA

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates, ,

My name is Semyon Shtulberg, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I have seen the impact this type of program can have on citizens re-entering society after incarceration. I was fortunate to teach in Darden programs while an MBA student. I graduated in 2012 and now am working in health care strategy.

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand how the Darden Prisoner Entrepreneurship program helped my students gain skills that would help them thrive once back in their communities. The learning went two-ways, which is why a university partner is so important. As much as the program benefited its students it equally had a profound impact on my own perceptions and understanding of men and women serving time in prison. The compassion and empathy that I gained from the program will stay with me forever and undoubtedly shape my decisions as a business leader.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,



Semyon Shtulberg

Milwaukee, WI

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Michael Feng, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I was fortunate to teach in Darden education programs while an MBA student in 2018–2019. It was a fantastic program that gave me an opportunity to connect with the community and give back to people who really appreciated our time and effort. How the program is run is a huge part of this, and Resilience education has the right mission and values to make a program like this successful. I saw firsthand that the partnership between Resilience, Darden, and the Virginia department of corrections was a great partnership that everyone involved was able to benefit from. Resilience did a great job of coordinating and aligning visions and the outcomes have been fantastic. The students are always engaged and thankful, and go on to improve their lives post-release; the educators learn and get to give back. I'm grateful that I chose to join the program and it will always be with me.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for letting me share,

Mike Feng,

Boston, MA,

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Justin Edmondson, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating



to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because of the tremendous impact it has on the lives of inmates who hope to transition back to the workforce, the student-teachers who learn and grow immensely from this experience, and the surrounding communities who benefit from the reduction of recidivism. I was fortunate enough to teach Entrepreneurship in the Darden program while an MBA student and it was the most impactful experience of my time in graduate school. I graduated in 2017 and now work in the District of Columbia in Commercial Real Estate Development.

I offer this testimony because I witnessed first-hand how the Darden entrepreneurship class helped my students critically think about real world business issues and develop their own business plans to implement upon release. The learning was invaluable and reciprocal, which is why a university partner is so important for the success of this program.

I am forever grateful to Darden for the opportunity to participate
Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
Justin Edmondson

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Jimmy Figueroa and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

While an MBA student at Darden (Class of 2017), I was fortunate enough to have the experience of teaching students in prison through the Resilience Education program. I saw first-hand the impact that an education program could have on this population:

1. Team-building and camaraderie: These students supported one another inside and outside of the classroom in ways that would not have existed otherwise. They helped one another understand complex concepts, added advice to improve business ideas, and openly shared personal perspectives that broadened the learning environment.
2. Self-motivation: The group of students I taught were self-motivated and applied themselves to mastering the curriculum. Their effort was on par, if not greater, than levels of effort I've seen from peers through personal classroom experiences. It was amazing to see the level of effort given by a group of individuals, who in most cases, had grown up in education environments where they were not afforded this quality of education and had started to believe they were not "good students".



3. Positive intent: Each week these students were able to step outside of their daily routine and practice skills that could support their lives once released. Their ambition was profound and they shared a passion for wanting to make a positive impact win their community if given the opportunity. Given the right support and attention we hoped that these ambitions could translate into reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Figueroa

San Francisco, CA

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Jim, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I am currently a student instructor at the Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center, in central Virginia. I have seen first hand that our students are eager to learn from the Darden instruction team, have participated effectively and consistently during our classes, and believe that the lessons they are learning will assist them in establishing themselves successfully in their communities upon release. The Darden PREP program meaningfully reduces recidivism and makes a difference in the lives of all of the students that it reaches. Further, our instructors from the Darden School of Business all believe the program has made a difference in our lives, by connecting us with offenders and helping us understand their strong capabilities, building in us a joy of teaching and an awareness of issues in the United States criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,

Jim Howe

Charlottesville, Virginia



Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Jennifer Rose and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to teach in the Darden prison program while an MBA student at Darden. I graduated in 2019 and now am in management consulting in Atlanta, Georgia.

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand how the Darden program helped my students grow and develop as individuals. As we taught business fundamentals, I watched my students come to life, learning new concepts and getting excited for when they would be released and could put the new ideas into action. From understanding interest rates, to how to buy a house, to how credit cards work, many of these topics were unfamiliar or complicated to our students at first. That is until class when we talked through the details or logistics of the topic. Suddenly, what used to be challenging and intimidating was understandable, actionable, and would eventually be something they could incorporate into their life (such as buying a house). I watched them fill with hope as they prepared to re-enter society better equipped to handle life after prison. The learning went two-ways, which is why a university partner is so important.

My peers and I who taught each week gained so much from our students. They taught us resilience, how to handle adversity with humor, patience with frustrating systems, humility, kindness, honesty, and strength. I think of my students often and how much I learned from their resilience and it is my sincere hope Hawaii will consider the benefits of this program, for the students, the teachers, and the broader community. With more individuals able to handle the demands of participating properly in society, the more productive and prosperous our communities will be.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rose

Atlanta, Georgia



Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Jarrett Walker, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because of the profound impact this program has had on the lives of both, the students and the instructors, like myself. I was fortunate to teach in Darden programs while an MBA student. I taught Entrepreneurship at the Dillwyn Men's Correctional Facility in Dillwyn, Virginia. I graduated in 2018 and now am an Investment Banker at J.P. Morgan. The Darden Prison Program was the most impactful curriculum I experienced during my graduate studies at the University of Virginia. As business leaders, educators, and political leaders I believe we have an obligation to use our platforms and our talents for the betterment of others and the overall betterment of society. When I signed up to participate as an instructor at Dillwyn, I expected to share business methodologies and truly serve as an instructor for the classroom. What I did not expect was to form a family-like bond with a classroom of passionate gentlemen that I am proud to call my former students and even prouder to call my now friends. As one with family members that have had their own experience with the correctional system, I have witnessed firsthand the power of providing a positive and constructive support system to incarcerated persons. Additionally, as students in university mature and develop a holistic view of society, it is imperative that they participate in life-changing experiences like this program to deepen their knowledge of self and instill a foundation of civic-engagement.

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand the impact this had on my peers whom had no prior experience with incarcerated persons. I watched their preconceived bias slowly breakdown and their minds and hearts become more open to being an agent of change. I witnessed my peers become more passionate, develop more empathy, and personally debunk the stereotypes they had been conditioned to believe. I know that through this experience they will be more effective leaders in their own personal and professional communities. Secondly, I saw first-hand the impact this had on the students in the program. I witnessed them become deeply passionate about the curriculum. They were filled hope and that hope naturally transformed into discipline. The mental stimulation they received through education proved so impactful that they challenged their fellow peers to become more discipline during their sentence in preparation for their journey post-release. The program is mutually beneficial. The learning went two-way, which is why a university partner is so important for the success of this program.

In closing, during my time as an instructor I met a student, whose name I will not share out of respect for his privacy. We forged a unique relationship due to his natural business curiosity and ability to solve complex cases in a very short amount of curriculum time. I watched him grow each week as he prepared for his release and his unwavering positive attitude and personal drive changed my life. He was deeply committed to changing his circumstances because "his family deserved better." He was released shortly after I graduated and we remain in contact. He has successfully secured employment and is currently saving his earnings to open his first personal training facility. He continues to share his business ideas with me and I remain a pillar of support. One would arrogantly think that he is the only one that has benefited tremendously



from being a student in the program – and while I am confident that the program has had a positive impact on his trajectory – I humbly believe that I have benefited most from our relationship. He reminded me that with the right attitude and work ethic, there is nothing one can't achieve. He reminded me of the power of hope. Most importantly, he reminded me that it is my duty as a citizen to use my platform and privilege for the betterment of others.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
Jarrett M. Walker
New York, NY

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is James Lonergan, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, which is scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

After experiencing the impact of this program firsthand, I could not support this bill more. As a current MBA student at Darden, I have had the fortune to teach in the Buckingham prison in Virginia. This program has given me an incredible avenue to support people in need. I have developed my passion for teaching through taking what I learn in the classroom and sharing it with my students. I am also confident my students are now better prepared to reenter society thanks to our classes together. The learning goes both ways through this program, which is why this bill supporting a university partner is so important.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
James Lonergan
Charlottesville, VA



Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Colin Fogarty, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I have seen first-hand the impact that it has upon its students in prison, as I was fortunate to teach at Dillwyn Correctional Center while an MBA student at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. Graduating in 2016, I am now a management consultant in Atlanta, and would like to share some of my experiences teaching at Dillwyn as part of the Resilience Education Program.

Though it was nearly 4 years ago, I will never forget the enthusiasm that I saw from each and every prisoner that I had the opportunity to teach on a weekly basis. It was clear as day that every student I taught at Dillwyn greatly looked forward to their time in the classroom each week. Only a few steps into the classroom on my very first day, and the first thing I heard as I shook my student's hand was, "I'm Andrew – thank you for coming here tonight. Ever since I heard about this opportunity, I've been working towards becoming part of this program. I could not be more excited to be in this classroom right now!"

I truly believe that offering them the mentoring environment to dream about being a business owner down the road created an intangible and invaluable positive future outlook for them. I vividly remember John telling me about his plan to start "the best motorcycle repair shop I can think of... I know bikes and I think I can really do something with this!". It was truly awesome that the program helped him take that enthusiasm and put together a true business plan that outlined how he could potentially make that dream a reality.

To help build the skills to support their entrepreneurial dreams, the students also eagerly dove into learning about basic business and financial principles. The concept of credit and credit cards is one example topic that comes immediately to mind. I've been fortunate enough to have only benefited from using credit cards, but it was a real eye-opener to me when it seemed like credit cards, and more broadly the concept of credit and loans, were completely alien to the majority of the classroom. As I look back, I take great pride in the discussion we had as a group – I personally learned what it was like to operate in life without credit, but more importantly, the group was able to leave the classroom that night with an understanding of how loans and credit can be a tremendous help in both life and business. I'm also confident they understood how to think about credit and how to avoid potential risks and pitfalls through its mismanagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony -- I hope that the above experiences have illustrated the value that an educational program with a university partner could bring to your prisons as a tool to help reduce recidivism. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,



Colin Fogarty

Atlanta, GA

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Billie Loewen, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to teach in Darden programs while an executive MBA student. I graduated in 2019 and now am an executive consultant for a technology firm serving clients like IBM, Synchrony Financial, Regal Cinemas, HBO and more.

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand how the Darden teaching program at Fluvanna Women's Correctional Prison helped my students learn critical business skills that will help them succeed after their sentence, grow their confidence, practice spirited debate in and out of the classroom, participate in a community atmosphere, act as a team player, improve their servant-leadership capacity, contextualize and internalize their potential, and solve complex problems — including roadmapping their own path to success and overcoming hurdles. The learning went two-ways, which is why a university partner is so important to bring greater awareness of inequality and the prison system to student-leaders, many of whom will graduate and become business leaders with the power to hire previously incarcerated members of their community and support initiatives that reduce systematic causes of imprisonment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB3126.

Sincerely,

Billie Loewen

Charlottesville, VA



Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

I support this bill as I strongly believe this is one of the most impactful ways to reduce recidivism. As one of the first volunteers, I witnessed how powerful it is to teach core concepts to the students to ensure they are well-prepared for life on the outside and to inspire hope for a new path ahead. Moreover, it is also an enriching experience to the teachers in the program – you can't get much better leadership experience than that. The partnership with Darden adds tremendous value both in forms of resources, processes, etc., and also importantly, in establishing a strong brand for the program.

Taking part of this initiative was one of the – if not the – highlights of my experience at Darden and I fully support its expansion.

Anders Hvelplund,

VP Strategy and Business Development, Jabra



Formerly Incarcerated Graduates | Resilience Education Testimonies

Darden Business School

March 11th, 2020

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates

My name is Barbara Hurst, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to take the Darden programs while incarcerated at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Troy, Virginia. I received Darden certificates in all three programs (Financial Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Foundations in Business). This was my second incarceration for embezzlement, and I served 46 months. I have been home for over 2 years.

I am excited to offer this testimony because the Darden programs helped me gain numerous skills and helped me become the businesswoman I am today. Today I own my own business consulting firm, and my services include writing business plans, grant proposals, financial plans, marketing, and more. I was blessed to work in partnership with other volunteers at Fluvanna and Resilience Education while I was incarcerated to write “Achieving Success in Personal Finance”. This course is a modified version of the Financial Capability course but is focused more on helping inmates who are leaving incarceration within one year and who do not have time to take the other Darden Programs. This program also addresses habits regarding financial matters.

Regarding the courses, I especially enjoyed working with one of the MBA instructors, Kelly Gerhardt, who was my mentor for my business plan. She was so welcoming, accepting, and gave me great guided wisdom in my business plan. Her constructive criticism was welcomed and appreciated. Additionally, I LOVE the case method approach to teaching; it allows for open discussion with participants and is a fantastic way to learn! I learned so much while taking these three courses, and one of the biggest concerns (fears) I had was how I was going to pay back my nearly \$370,000 in restitution and \$3,500 in court fines. I was paralyzed with fear that I would not be able to pay the \$500 a month restitution payment I was required to pay and that I would be violated because I couldn't pay it. After taking Financial Capability, this fear was completely removed, and I had a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan to pay this off. I am hopeful that I will be able to pay this off within 5 years, and nothing will make me happier than to fully repay what I owe. I have already paid off all of my court fines.

LATE

The Darden programs helped challenge me to continue address my wrong ways of thinking about money and so much more. These Programs also helped me to know who I really am, grow in self-confidence, and also helped me in my marriage. I was blessed to come back home to my husband and grown son; however, I was very concerned about how I would ever pay that amount of money back in my lifetime. My husband and I have been married for over 30 years and have grown in leaps and bounds since I came home, and the healing we have had, with God's help, has been astounding. We have the most fun, wonderful marriage today, a marriage I had only dreamt of having while I was incarcerated and after causing so much hurt and pain to those I loved and to my community. All I want to do is to help make it right by giving back all that I can.

Lastly, one of the most amazing things about the Darden Programs was that we were treated with dignity and respect, despite the mistakes we had made in our lives. When we walked into these classrooms, it was like we walked into a different world, a world where people believed in us, supported us, and it helped us see beyond the prison walls and into the future. These programs and amazing people helped me become the best version of myself. To be able to take and complete these programs has been the most incredible privilege and honor. I appreciate the opportunity to gain these important credentials from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. I cannot even begin to express to you how incredibly grateful I am for Drs. Gregory and Tierney Fairchild and their Team, including all of the MBA instructors. To say that I was given a second chance in life does not even begin to express the depth of gratitude I have.

Today, I live in Manassas, Virginia, and I own and operate Creative Consulting, LLC (www.creativeconsulting-llc.com). My business helps me to pay my \$500 a month restitution, in addition to being able to partner with others that I consult with that pay substantially more, in hopes to pay off my restitution in full within five years. Without Darden, I never would have been able to do and accomplish what I have since my release in October 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

I am available anytime should you wish to ask any other questions at (703) 624-3132.

Sincerely,
Barbara Hurst
Manassas, Virginia

My name is Helenia Bragg. When I met the Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild, I was a three-time loser (incarcerated 3 times) at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Virginia. I read a posting about the Resilience Education Entrepreneurship Program, and I signed up, filled out the application, was interviewed, and was accepted into the program. I successfully completed all 3 classes in the program. Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild encouraged me to give my business plan a chance. The MBA students who facilitated the classes challenged the students on resolving real-life possibilities in running a business. I wrote and presented my business plan in the Entrepreneurship Program, and I took this

business plan home with me. I was released in 2016. I graduated in May 2019 from Marymount University in Washington, DC with my bachelor's degree in Social Work.

The business plan I wrote is being manifested today into a non-profit business. SHE (Seeking Higher Employment) was birthed in 2020, has received its 501(c)(3) approval, has 5 Board Members, a P.O. box, and a bank account. SHE is a unique program for females being released from incarceration to the community of Northern Virginia/ Washington, DC. These are the women who, while incarcerated, empowered themselves with career and technical educational opportunities that were available to them. The primary objective of SHE will be to connect these women to companies that will allow them to use their skills to become productive citizens by obtaining livable-wage careers, stable housing, and reuniting with family. The mission of SHE is to get every returning female citizen employment in a career, skill-based job within 60 days of release.

I am working in partnership with Resilience Education to help continue to build SHE into a successful venture that will help women in Virginia and Washington, DC find jobs that will allow them comparable wages for the field in which they are certified, despite being labeled a felon.

The Resilience Education program gave me the skills and motivation to work on my dream program and to help it become a reality. I am thrilled to be able to incorporate what I learned through Resilience Education to help make other's dreams become reality as well.

Helenia Bragg
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

So many individuals like myself are incarcerated for decades and as the outside world evolves ours stands still.

I was truly grateful for the experience and knowledge I've obtained from participating in these programs because they have assisted me through my reintegration process. It has been a year since my release from prison and although I am not financially literate to the level I want to be, Thanks to the Resilience Program and all I've learned, I am well on my way. The skies the limit for me!

Leah Faria,
Brooklyn,
New York



Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Richard Boye, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and Initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to take the Darden programs while incarcerated at Dillwyn Correctional Center. I received Darden certificates in Financial Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Capstone. I served 28.25 years and have been home for 2 years.

I am excited to offer this testimony because the Darden programs helped me gain basic financial skills, like using a bank, making budgets, learning how credit works, and using a credit card. I also developed interesting learning skills through the Socratic method. I learned how to develop and present a viable business plan, which helped my public speaking skills. All of these skills allowed me to open a bank account and apply for a credit card; which started me on the road to building a credit score after my release. I was also able to present and sell myself to prospective employers, which ultimately allowed me to land an incredible job with Buckingham Branch Railroad. I especially enjoyed learning the Socratic method of learning. It was so much easier for me to learn and retain the information. It was a light bulb moment in learning for me. The instructors (Dr's Greg and Tierney Fairchild), MBA instructors, were more helpful to me in preparing me for useful release knowledge than any class I took while incarcerated, and I took a lot of classes. I appreciated the opportunity to gain these important credentials from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Today, I am a happily married man who has been writing an incredible chapter of my life after incarceration. I can honestly say that the Darden Resilience Program would be a vital tool in preparing individuals for release and being successful upon release. I watched for over 28 years the revolving door and know that this program offers and delivers what one can really utilize after incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Boye
Charleston, SC

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Robin, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons.



scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to take the Darden programs while incarcerated at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. I received Darden certificates in Entrepreneurship, Financial Capabilities, and Capstone. I served 18 and a half years and have been home 2 months shy of 2 years.

I am excited to offer this testimony because the Darden programs helped me gain social, financial, and life skills, which allowed me to become employed, find housing, and create a foundation for myself after my release. I especially enjoyed the students and the way they not only engaged the class through their teaching method, but how they believed in my ability to become a success and not a statistic. The opportunity to gain these important credentials from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia changed my life for the better in more ways than I can count.

Today, I am living and working in Roanoke, VA. I have a lovely town home and I'm in the process of saving a down payment to purchase a home of my own. I have paid nearly all of the restitution that I owe and have been moved to low-risk probation monitoring. I am making a wonderful salary working for an AV company as a Sales Rep, Marketing Director, and Product specialist. I recently got engaged and I am living the dreams I had as a young girl before becoming incarcerated at the age of 15 and spending most of my young adult life in prison. Without Darden, I would not have had the confidence to become productive and successful in my community. The Darden program prepared me for what I was about to face upon my release.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126. I know that the Darden program can help someone else like me if you will pass this Bill.

Thank you so much for allowing me to share,

Robin Martin
Roanoke, VA

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,
Graduating from Darden has had an immensely positive impact on my life since my release four and a half years ago. I was able to become an extremely active student leader at a local community college because of the skills and experience that I gained in Darden. I am currently an honors student at Virginia Commonwealth University double majoring in psychology and sociology with the aim of earning a doctorate and becoming a professor one day. I would not be where I am today if not for Darden.

Stephanie C.

Richmond, Virginia





LATE

Graduate School of Business
Administration P.O. Box 6550 , Virginia
22906-6550 Shipping: 100 Darden
Boulevard, 22903 Phone: (434) 243-8879
fairchildg@darden.virginia.edu

11 March 2020

Gregory B. Fairchild *Isadore Horween Associate Professor of Business Administration*

Hawaii Senate Bill 3126 Relating to Prisons.

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons. This bill, as you know, establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

By way of background, in 2011, Darden Dean Bob Bruner received a letter from Jervon Herbin, an incarcerated man in Virginia, asking for assistance with business skills and a business plan so he could better support his teenage son post release. Darden didn't have a solution to offer this man but Professor Greg Fairchild had an idea. What if he could deliver an entrepreneurship certificate course with MBA students inside a prison to help men like Mr. Herbin? The successful launch of that program in the Dillwyn men's facility, led to an expansion to Fluvanna women's facility, and Greg's wife Tierney, also a Darden alum and PhD, joined him in developing two additional programs in personal finance and business and co-founding Resilience Education to help facilitate and expand the programs to other facilities, business schools and universities.

Nine years later, Resilience Education and Darden in partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections have awarded over 575 certificates to 360 individuals. Nearly 200 MBA students have taught in the programs and a number continue to mentor released graduates. While recidivism data are only preliminary, 93 percent of graduates have not returned to prison.

Anecdotally, we have seen the transformational benefits of this program, both for the incarcerated graduates and the MBAs that teach them. One of our released graduates just landed a full-time position at UVA, with benefits. Another graduate is in the honors college at Virginia Commonwealth University, while another just became the general manager of a Marriott Fairfield Inn. We have countless stories of Resilience graduates finding stable employment, if not meaningful careers. And our MBAs often tell us that the Resilience programs helped them to become better business leaders, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and empathy to make a difference in their jobs and communities. The return on an investment in the Resilience programs is clear and in an economy with such low unemployment, all our citizens should be able to contribute positively to the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. We support more universities and business schools engaging in this work and encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
y,

Gregory B.
Fairchild

LATE

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Danielle Jenks, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons. scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I have been fortunate enough to see Resilience Education while an MBA student at Columbia Business School. I taught students both financial empowerment and entrepreneurship over the course of two semesters. I was able to watch my students grow week over week and learn new skills, but I think that I learned and grew just as much as they did. I become better at breaking down complex problems, commanding a room, and developing a collaborating environment. I will take all of these skills with me upon graduation in May when I join Google as a Product Operations Manager. I hope others, both future teachers and students, have the opportunity to benefit from this incredible program in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,

Danielle Jenks

New York, NY

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Emmanuel Caprais, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, relating to Prisons and scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I would like to share my experience when I participated to the Resilience Education/Columbia programs while an MBA student at the Columbia Business School.

When I chose to participate in this program, I felt that I could help incarcerated people aspire to a better future and that I could become a better person. It was important for me to challenge the privileged life I live and dedicate some of my time and energy to helping incarcerated people.

I therefore looked very much forward to sharing my knowledge and experiences in order to equip students with information and practical tips so that they not only successfully reintegrate society but also manage the critical first few months of freedom in the least disruptive way possible for them and society. It is clear to me that one's background determines so much of one's future. I could have experienced the same circumstances, had I not been born into a middle-class, nurturing family. This realization helped me to strongly relate to students during this experience.

My experience with the ReEntry Program was completely unique, in addition to teaching subjects that I knew little about beforehand, I truly enjoyed the opportunity to teaching to people who despite their difficult conditions, demonstrated a level of engagement and willingness to learn that I had not expected. The questions the students asked were both difficult and easy and most of the time insightful. They clearly showed that the students had been disconnected from life in society for so many years and that situations that seemed obvious to address, were not that easy for many of them.

The first two lessons that I taught dealt with how to choose a cell phone plan and house rent vs buy decision. Interestingly, even if I had gone through both these situations on my own, I was surprised at how complex such decisions can be. I had not realized the large number of alternatives there were for cell phones or the list of actions necessary to buy a house for example, especially when you have a limited budget. It is a good reminder that so much of one's success depends on others and in particular on family. It was also clear that my students did not have access to those resources, thus potentially perpetuating a negative cycle even once outside of prison.

During classes, students, as usual, have been very engaged, even when I struggled answering all their questions. The students made a point in thanking us at the end of the lesson, knowing that it the last lesson I taught.

On one instance, I started a phrase by saying: "when you see the LTE signal on your cell phone..." and in a matter of seconds the class turned noisy and unsettled because I clearly had taken for granted something that they had never experienced. The reference points are clearly not the same and it was a constant adjustment between my experience and theirs, in both ways. This makes it even more important that students are guided before they exit the prison system.

During class, students made it easy for me to focus on my teaching mission; the class atmosphere was respectful and representative of our common goal to prepare them for life

after prison. I think that most of us would behave this way once given the opportunity to see the prison environment and the quality of the student body.

Thinking back about criminal legal system, it is set up so that there is little incentive to be more efficient, quite the contrary. This is obviously a very complex issue but it is disappointing for the fate of incarcerated people, as it does not set them up for future success. This is why the Reentry Acceleration Program is so important.

Finally, my interest to help incarcerated people will not stop after this experience. I have sponsored the idea of ReEntry Acceleration at my company and we have decided to hire two formerly incarcerated people.

There are many barriers for incarcerated people even after they have paid their dues to society. If each of us can help our communities understand that the completion of a prison sentence should mean full acceptance back into society, then it would make it clear that the US criminal legal system is not only a system aimed at punishing criminals but also at rehabilitating them. There are many examples in Europe that prove that it works.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Emmanuel Caprais

Scarsdale, New York

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Shayla Campbell, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to participate in the Resilience Education/Columbia programs while an MBA student at the Columbia Business School. The programs helped me gain leadership skills and allowed me to share my experiences with others.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,

Shayla Campbell

New York, New York

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Sarah, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons. scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to participate in the Resilience Education/Columbia programs while an EMBA student at the Columbia Business School. My education was broadened by getting to work with and know incarcerated people. I gained exposure to and some understanding of the carceral system and the challenges formerly incarcerated people face with respect to employment and reentry into their communities. I was challenged to think about what role I might be able to play in my own career, by looking for opportunities to set corporate policies that affirm non-discriminatory hiring. It was also a great opportunity to cement what I was learning in class by teaching. I gained empathy and improved my presentation skills. It was the most rewarding course I have taken in business school.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,

Sarah J.

Manhattan, NY

March 11, 2020

LATE

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 3126 in Hawaii

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Sarah, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives. I support this bill because I was fortunate to participate in the Resilience Education/Columbia programs while an EMBA student at the Columbia Business School. My education was broadened by getting to work with and know incarcerated people. I gained exposure to and some understanding of the carceral system and the challenges formerly incarcerated people face with respect to employment and reentry into their communities. I was challenged to think about what role I might be able to play in my own career, by looking for opportunities to set corporate policies that affirm non-discriminatory hiring. It was also a great opportunity to cement what I was learning in class by teaching. I gained empathy and improved my presentation skills. It was the most rewarding course I have taken in business school. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely,
Sarah J.
Manhattan, NY

To: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

LATE

Dear Chairman Takayama and Vice Chairman Gates,

My name is Chenault Taylor and I am a graduate of the Yale School of Management, currently working at the Boston Consulting Group. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 3126, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on March 11, 2020. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives focused on business skills, and partners with the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and their related nonprofit, Resilience Education.

I learned about the Resilience Education programs through my business school and requested to implement their entrepreneurship program at the Monroe Correctional Complex in Washington State in fall 2019. I taught a semester class of twenty men residing at the medium security prison.

The program was extremely well received by the students and the facility partner, University Beyond Bars. I have been asked to return and expand the program at the facility. Students actively participated in a rigorous, graduate-school level curriculum and created their own well-executed business plans. I've included a few quotes from my students below:

"Thinking about the details necessary to operate a business was very helpful. I have a number of business experiences in which I operated covertly but this information helped me understand how the skills I already have can be applied to start and run a successful business upon my release."

"I came into this confident I will be successful at this very thing. Having been in prison 40 years, however, I realize there is much I don't know. This class helped me fill in many of the gaps in my knowledge. I'm sure I'll have to continue educating myself about this but the class was a great step on that path."

"This was one of the most personal and get out of my comfort zone classes I've done and now I feel more motivated to give myself a greater chance of success."

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand the power of access to education, particularly business education.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 3126.

Sincerely

,

Chenault Taylor Seattle,

WA

Chenault.Taylor@gmail.com

m 312-859-2298

LATE

SB-3126-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:56:10 AM

Testimony for PVM on 3/11/2020 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: