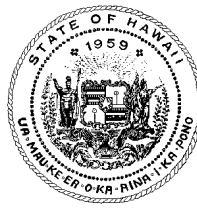


DAVID Y. IGE
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3126
RELATING TO PRISONS.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 25, 2020; 12:40 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 3126, 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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

12:40 PM – Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 3126 – PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Education is the route out of poverty and incarceration. Many incarcerated people have lost their way or some have never found it, therefore, assisting people in developing skill sets to become independent and self-sufficient is an important strategy to reduce recidivism.

We respectfully suggest that this program be part of the responsibilities of the Correctional Oversight Commission since the department of public safety has been unwilling to share data and information with researchers, national think tanks, and the community.

We strongly support the program and encourage the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-3126

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 2:13:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Testifying for Americans for Democratic Action	Support	No

Comments:

We believe education will be more effective at deterring crime than harsh penalties.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 12:40 P.M.

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

LATE

RE: SB 3126, RELATING TO PRISONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3126, which establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

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.

LATE

SB-3126

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 1:07:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: