



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS
Friday, February 5, 2021
10:00 AM
Via Videoconference

in consideration of
HB 621
RELATING TO THE OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER SITE.

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans.

The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following **comments** in support of the intent of HB 621. HB 621 would establish a 20-member working group to examine redevelopment of the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) site and its surrounding area once OCCC is relocated. The working group would consult with community residents and businesses and other public and private stakeholders in identifying and developing recommendations for redevelopment to promote delivery of affordable housing and employment and economic development opportunities for the community. The working group would be administratively attached to OP for support, and would submit reports to the Governor, the Legislature, the City Mayor, and the City Council no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2022 and 2023 regular session.

The OCCC site was identified as a potential TOD site in the *State Strategic Plan for Transit-Oriented Development* issued by the Hawai'i Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD Council). As TOD Council co-chair and lead agency for State TOD, OP supports the concept of a community planning and consultation process that would explore how redevelopment of the site could serve a range of community and TOD objectives, and we support the concept of early engagement in envisioning the potential of this strategic site.

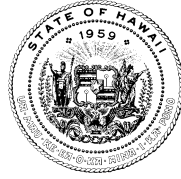
While we would be willing to serve as the facilitator and support for the working group effort, we believe the timing of this effort may be premature. This effort would be more timely and more effective if undertaken as a preliminary step in a master planning process for the site once construction and relocation of OCCC is underway.

In addition, under current fiscal constraints, it would be difficult at this time for OP staff to support an effort of this size without the resources needed to support community and stakeholder engagement and provide urban design and community economic development principles and precedents for consideration in this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2021 AT 10:00AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HB 621, RELATING TO THE OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER SITE

February 5, 2021

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 621, which establishes the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) site redevelopment working group to bring together state and county agencies, private entities, and the broader Kalihi community to examine how to best utilize the OCCC site and the surrounding area after the correctional center is relocated to a new location and identify, work through, and recommend solutions to issues relating to the redevelopment.

This bill proposes that the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee serve as a member of the working group. The Oahu Island Plan of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands identified a land shortage on Oahu and the need to acquire new lands to award homesteads to all Oahu applicants. DHHL is open to exploring housing opportunities for beneficiaries.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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RADIANT CORDERO
Councilmember District VII
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e-mail: rcordero@honolulu.gov
387

February 04, 2021

TO: REP. TAKASHI OHNO
CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

REP. SONNY GANADEN
VICE CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, &
VETERANS

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER RADIANT CORDERO 
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT VII

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 621 RELATING TO THE OAHU
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER SITE.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony in support of HB 621 Relating to the Oahu Community Correctional Center Site.

Planning collaboratively for development opportunity to increase and improve Kalihi community which I represent, is vital and necessary to ensure that we are providing the best interest of the people that work, live and play in this community.

I look forward to working with the group, stakeholders, and area legislators on the future of this site.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss and consider HB 621.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY AND VETERANS

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair

Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Friday, February 5, 2021

10:00 AM

OPPOSITION TO HB 621 - OCCC REDEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, 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 more than 4,100 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 1,000 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in opposition to this measure. The flawed, top-down OCCC relocation process has been facing huge community outcry that the government has totally ignored. Meanwhile the state is working to placate the Kalihi community with a ‘process’ to gather their input while ignoring the 800 pound gorilla in the room.

Sadly, we know all about the government ‘process’ of “community engagement” and this bill underscores our concerns. *“The purposes of this bill are to establish the OCCC site redevelopment working group to bring together state and county agencies, private entities, and the **broader Kalihi community** to: examine ways to best utilize the OCCC site and the surrounding area after the correctional center is relocated to a new location and to identify, study, work through, and recommend solutions to issues relating to the redevelopment of the OCCC site and the surrounding area.”*

Our concerns are many but to name a few, I will start with the fact that there is no information about who is incarcerated and why they are imprisoned and no

discussion about alternatives to building more cages for people who can't make bail. In other words, the government is convening people from a community under economic stress to get their buy-in to build a humongous jail to lock up their friends and family.

Our concerns surround the 20-member working group that has 16 bureaucrats from various state and city agencies and 4 community organization members from the Kalihi/Palama Neighborhood Board, Kamehameha Schools, Kokua Kalihi Valley, and Susanna Wesley Community Center.

One of the biggest problems with this lopsided working group is that there is little trust that the government will work in the interest of working people when the balance is 80:20. That does not even give the illusion that the group cares about what the community thinks.

This is the 'working group' identified in the bill:

- (1) The governor or the governor's designee, who shall convene the working group's initial meeting;*
- (2) The member of the state senate whose district includes the OCCC site or designee;*
- (3) The member of the state house of representatives whose district includes the OCCC site or designee;*
- (4) The superintendent of education or designee;*
- (5) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or the chairperson's designee;*
- (6) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or designee;*
- (7) The director of public safety or designee;*
- (8) The director of transportation or designee;*
- (9) The director of the office of planning designee;*
- (10) The chancellor of the Honolulu community college or designee;*
- (11) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation or designee;*
- (12) The mayor of the city and county of Honolulu or designee;*
- (13) The member of the Honolulu city council whose district includes the OCCC site or designee;*

(14) The director of the department of facility maintenance of the city and county of Honolulu or the director's designee;

(15) The director of the department of planning and permitting (*affectionately known as the Department of Permitting and Permitting*) of the city and county of Honolulu or designee;

(16) The executive director of the Honolulu authority for rapid transit or designee; (*that's the Trifecta: Rail Fail; Jail Fail; Bail Fail!*)

(17) A member of the Kalihi/Palama neighborhood board # fifteen;

(18) A representative to be invited from Kamehameha Schools;

(19) A representative from Kokua Kalihi Valley; AND

(20) A representative to be invited from the Susanna Wesley Community Center.

Does 20% input even sound remotely inclusive and meaningful against an 80% government push?

Sadly, this is how Hawai'i does development:

- i. Determine the desired outcome
- ii. Appoint the people to make it happen
- iii. Bring in 3 designs and ask the 'working group' which one they like - even those not discussed by the group
- iv. Done! The process worked ... for the government
- v. The community gets the bill and maybe a mahalo.

The broader Honolulu communities needs to have a REAL DISCUSSION on what kind of communities they envision in which to raise their families.

How can the community be assured they won't get screwed over and that some mega development won't get approved that prices the Kalihi community out of their homes? We need honesty, transparency, and accountability in processes that impact our lives. It's time for honest discussions. Mahalo for this opportunity to share our deep concerns.

*Liberty flourishes not when government is weak,
but when government is accountable.*

David Brin

Testimony on HB621, HB1080, HB1082, and HB1389
February 4, 2021
House Committee on Housing, State of Hawaii

Aloha Honored Members of our State House Committee on Housing,

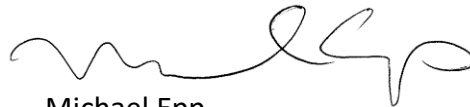
We fully support HB621, HB1080, HB 1082 and HB1389, all of which address important changes to our State corrections system.

- HB621 establishes a community working group to guide the redevelopment of the current Oahu Correction Center site. Acreage under the current Oahu Correction Center Site is a key community asset that should be redeveloped using principles and strategies that ensure their alignment with 'aina values and the sustainability, resilience, and health of current Kalihi residents. For the last two years, Kokua Kalihi Valley has been working with a collaborative of leaders focused on increasing community voice in urban development in Kalihi. We look forward to fully participating in this essential working group.
- HB1082, HB1080, and HB1389 phase out the use of private correctional facilities, transfer the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission to the State Department of Human Services, and place a moratorium on the construction of new private correctional facilities in the State until such time as a reconfigured commission reviews, advises, and approves new construction and any correction facility expansions. We fully support this legislation. Many of our Kalihi subcommunities are over-represented in our prison systems, due to significant economic, social, and cultural barriers to equity and empowerment. Prisoners are among our beloved friends and family members and deserve a correctional system that minimizes the perverse and harmful incentives of the for-profit prison industry and that maximizes opportunities for humane and caring rehabilitation that employs the best practices of community, social and human service. Phasing out dependence on the for-profit prison industry and transferring the commission to the Department of Human Services are both important steps in creating a correctional system the better aligns with Hawaii's unique cultural and community values.

Thank you.



Dr. David Derauf
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HB-621

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:25:22 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Foy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Redevelopment of the OCCC site will require input from a diversity of stakeholders - gov't agencies, community organizations, and esp the broader Kalihi community. The Kalihi community knows what's best in the moment that we're in - a global pandemic, economic recession, and housing crises. I think this bill gives them voice to redevelop the OCCC site in a way that best meets their needs.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 3:06:20 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Foy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is a step in the right direction of criminal justice system reform. Our current correctional system does not do what it is put in place to do, rehabilitate folks back into the community. Kalihi community members know best what their own community needs and it is crucial that their voices, wants, and needs and a major part of the equation.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:11:00 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:17:01 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Small	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:17:29 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Joan Gannon of West Hawaii asking you to vote in favor of HB 621.

Thank you

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:43:28 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The sooner we imagine a different and more humane way to treat our incarcerated citizens, the better. Please support.

ROBERT K. MERCE
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
(808) 398-9594

TO: Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans
RE HB 621
HEARING DATE: Friday, February 5, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
CONF. Via Videoconference
POSITION: **Support**

Dear Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Merce. I am a retired attorney and previously served as vice chair of the HCR 85 Task Force on Prison Reform. I also chaired the Task Force's Correctional Facility Design Subcommittee and I was the principal author of the Task Force's 2017 Interim Report to the 2018 Legislature and its 116-page final report to the 2019 Legislature.

I support HB 621. It is an affirmative step toward helping the Kalihi community determine its own future.

My only comment is that the composition of the working group seems to be heavily weighted toward government officials. I suggest reducing the number of government officials and increasing the number of community members.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:22:00 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB621.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:35:02 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please, support HB621.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:46:33 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganadan and Committee Members:

I have concerns about this proposed measure. It assumes that OCCC will be moved and that we will simply build a new jail at another site.

Instead of building new jails and prisons, we should focus on evidence based strategies to significantly reduce the incarcerated population and invest in community based infrastructure, resources, services and programs.

Before we create a new working group, we should implement the recommendations of the HCR 85 Task Force on Prison Reform and The Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report, as well as Hawaii Justice Reinvestment Initiative recommendations to significantly reduce the incarcerated population and address systemic racism within our criminal legal system. This would benefit community members of Kalihi and all of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:52:17 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 621 which would establish an OCCC site redevelopment working group to assemble all stake holders, including the local Kalihi community, to examine how best to use the area after the correctional center is relocated and to recommend solutions to redevelopment issues based on local community needs.

It is vitally important for community groups and leaders to assess local needs and help develop solutions to address local concerns. At present the 20-member working group is overweighted with non-community people and this will prevent the Kalihi community from having influence over the future of their community. A reconstitution of the working group to include more community stakeholders will ensure that community needs will be addressed and solutions will not be weighted toward development interests.

Mahalo for your important work.

Diana Bethel

LATE

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:29:39 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My biggest concern is that this is an opportunity for community healing. Often correctional facilities leave scars in the community that can last for generations. I would like to see that this area be restored as an important and loved part of Kalihi. Redevelopment should center people and healing, rather than corporate interest.

LATE

HB-621

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:42:28 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it's important to bring together the community along with other stakeholders to determine how to best use the site