

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 07 2022**

RE: S.B. No. 2639

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and  
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2639 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER  
REENTRY SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the  
Offender Reentry Office of the Department of Public Safety to  
develop and implement a risk needs assessment tool that is  
specifically intended to assess the needs of female offenders.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission, Women's  
Prison Project, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, and one  
individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from  
the Department of Public Safety.

Your Committee finds that criminal justice policies,  
practices, and programs have traditionally been designed for men  
and applied to women without regard to the unique needs of women.  
Gender responsive risk and need assessment tools better identify  
interventions which connect women to programs and treatment to  
address their needs and reduce recidivism. Additionally, women's  
pathways to crime differ significantly from those of men, too  
often beginning in childhood with physical and sexual abuse.  
Women are far more likely than men to commit crimes related to  
poverty, such as prostitution and credit card fraud, and drug-



related offenses. As women are often the primary caretakers of children, parental issues present unique challenges for impoverished women. Your Committee believes that gender response programs and treatments best address the needs of women. This measure will assist the State in addressing the needs of incarcerated women by requiring the Offender Reentry Office of the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a risk needs assessment tool that is specifically intended to assess the needs of female offenders.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2639 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military  
Affairs,

*Clarence K. Nishihara*

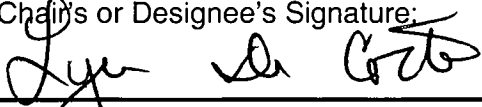
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CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-First Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**  
**PSM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2639	PSM, WAM	2/1/2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
DECOITE, Lynn (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	0	0	0
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes