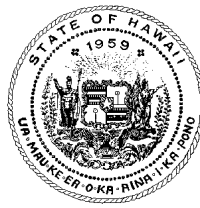


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU
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Deputy Director
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Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
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William Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1131
RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 8, 2023; 9:00 a.m.
CR 430 & Via Video Conference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 1131, that appropriates funding to the University of Hawaii Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health to conduct a comparative study of all programs offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State, for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to women offenders.

PSD believes a comparative study conducted by an external education entity to include any proposed legislation and funding will assist our efforts to create successful pathways for offenders as they re-enter the community. To maintain the integrity and validity of having an external education entity conduct a comparative study, PSD would like to propose adding the following language:

“Section 2. (a) The university of Hawaii shall conduct a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State, for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

The comparative study shall include the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS), Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) Committee members to review documents, observe program components, interactions, and interview staff and participants in order to evaluate effective practices in the delivery of range and quality programs offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State. The comparative study shall include the following:

- (1) Identification of any disparities in the range and quality of programming offered to female inmates and programming offered to male inmates;
- (2) A program assessment coordinated by PSD and if any area of improvement, range, or disparity is identified, PSD will assist the contractor in addressing area/s in need of improvement; and
- (3) Recommendations of potential sources of funding to facilitate parity in the range and quality of programming that is offered to female and male inmates in the State requires PSD approval and a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP)."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1131.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1131, RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY AND VETERANS

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 430

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require the University of Hawai'i to conduct a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans
February 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Interim Dean Tetine Sentell
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health
And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1131 – RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent on HB 1131 which requires the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health to conduct a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State, for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

The vision of the UH Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health is achieving social justice and health equity for the people of Hawai'i and citizens in a changing world. This work is aligned with our vision and our faculty would welcome the opportunity to gather information which would enhance pathways toward gender parity in programs for incarcerated women.

We appreciate the appropriation of funds to support this important work.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

HB-1131

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:04:57 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/8/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 1131.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS

Rep. Mark J. Hashem Chair
Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 9:00 am
Via videoconference, Conference Room 430
State Capitol

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1131 RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports HB1131 which would determine the State's compliance with Section 367D-1 of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which requires that "incarcerated women shall be provided a range and quality of programming substantially equivalent to the range and quality of programming offered to male persons who are similarly situated." To date there are no reports that verify such parity.

The statute further states that programming should specifically address "the psychosocial developmental needs of women". Programming is required to be "substantially equivalent to..." but not necessarily identical to programming for men.

HB1131 would appropriate \$120,000 for a study to be executed by experienced researchers at the University of Hawaii who are knowledgeable in the fields of criminality and rehabilitation. The study will provide a comprehensive view of programming across Hawaii's corrections system.

In order to evaluate the current level of parity for women, it will be necessary to identify all programming offered to incarcerated men as well as that offered to women. The information gained in this process will provide a valuable tool for future planning, not only for women but for all incarcerated persons as Hawaii moves toward the rehabilitative system implied by the new department designation of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Programs that are currently effective and might be replicated in other facilities will be identified, as well as gaps in programming. The study will highlight the specific rehabilitation needs of women which may or may not currently be met.

Effective planning requires a comprehensive analysis of current programming, a knowledge of best practices, and identification of key programming options in order to achieve the goal of reducing recidivism.

Hawaii should focus on reducing the state's perpetually high recidivism rate and more effectively rehabilitate incarcerated women and men. We cannot continue to accept a 50% recidivism rate for women leaving Women's Community Correctional Center.

We urge the legislature to mandate and fully fund the proposed parity study. The Women's Prison Project is in strong support of HB1131.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Linda Rich
On Behalf of Women's Prison Project

House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans
Bill # HB 1131
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun and Members of the Committee:

IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1131

My name is Meripa Godinet and I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health. I am submitting this testimony in my professional capacity as an academician and researcher examining issues such as racial and gender disparities in both the Juvenile Justice and Adult Criminal Justice Systems. My testimony does not represent that of my employer, the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

This testimony is offered in strong support of HB1131 because of its significance in addressing a major gap in serving one of our most vulnerable populations, incarcerated women. The incarceration rates of women have shown a steady incline in the previous decades and at a rate that is higher than men (Solinas-Saunders & Stacer, 2017; National Resources Center on Justice Involved Women, n.d.).

Furthermore, a recent report on the State of Hawaii indicated the rate for recidivism of women who were imprisoned was over 60% (Wong, 2018). The incarceration and recidivism rates for Native Hawaiian women are even more drastic (OHA, 2010; Wong, 2018).

Differences in female and male offenders are well documented regarding contributing factors such as offense type, needs, challenges, and pathways to crime (Wright, Voorhis, Slisbury, & Bauman, 2012). These established gender qualitative differences of offenders support the need for gender-responsive approaches in the Criminal Justice System. Programming therefore should reflect gender responsive approaches to address the needs of incarcerated women towards successful rehabilitation. The importance of relevant programming also impacts recidivism. When programs are effective in addressing challenges and meeting the needs of the women, they are more likely to achieve reintegration success. Although the need for gender responsive programming has been well documented in the literature (see Adams et al., 2011; Belknap, Lynch, Dehart, & Lurigio, 2016; Janssen et al., 2017; Morash, 2016), there has been no study to examine programming for women in incarceration in Hawaii. Given the disparity and the lack of information on programming for incarcerated women, the passage of HB1131 will address the need for further exploration.

Lastly, a study of this magnitude would require a minimum of one year to complete. Thus, I would like to suggest an amendment to the due date of the report of December 2023 in the bill (Section I, pg 2, line 1) be changed to June 2024.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in strong support of HB1131.

Meripa Godinet, PhD., MSW

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