

The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2022

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, February 28, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

by
Dwight S. Sakai
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2309, H.D. 2, Relating to Incarceration

Purpose: Appropriates moneys for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations in the State.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports House Bill No. 2309, H.D. 2 as it will provide much needed resources and funding to non-profit programs that provide direct services to offenders under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary.

Currently, non-profit organizations provide vital services and programs that include substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and domestic violence intervention. Providing additional funding to non-profit organizations will allow for an increase in the number of offenders served and provide opportunity for the programs to expand their services to meet the needs of offenders.

Offenders face many challenges in rehabilitating their lives. Non-profit community programs and the Judiciary have a long history in working together to help them. The impact is significant not only for the offenders, but for their families and the community. Providing this needed funding will ensure that their work continues.

For clarification purposes, the Judiciary contracts for services and will follow the 103F procurement process for which these services would fall under.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2309, H.D. 2.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 27, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2309 HD2 – RELATING TO INCARCERATION.**

Hearing: February 28, 2022, 12:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Public Safety, the Judiciary, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority. The Department respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations in the State. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Adding appropriations to the Judiciary and Hawaii Paroling Authority for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation programs and services for offenders falling under their respective jurisdictions;
- (2) Increasing flexibility by including rehabilitation as a type of program or service for which the appropriations under this Act may be used;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The HD2 amends the measure by:

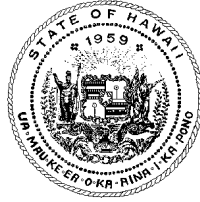
- (1) Deleting references to specific organizations and programs from the preamble; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Reentry and transition support programs are needed to help individuals be successful upon release from prison. Increasing opportunities while incarcerated to obtain substance abuse or behavioral health treatment, assistance with obtaining government-issued identification, general education degrees, employment training, whole-family-focused activities, and programming to maintain relationships can be transformative experiences. In addition, individuals preparing to reenter the community need to begin establishing relationships with community- and peer-support programs before release. Having positive relationships before and upon release will improve the individual's support network and social connections giving the person confidence and access to resources, especially peer-supports with lived experience.

Successful diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services need cross-sector collaboration with community-based organizations to support both the returning individual and their families. The Department will continue to work with the Department of Public Safety, the Judiciary, and community organizations to assist individuals with accessing available public benefits before or as soon as they are released.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2309, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INCARCERATION.

by

Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair,

Monday, February 28, 2022; 12:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers the following comments on House Bill 2309, HD 2, which proposes to appropriate funds, through PSD, the Judiciary, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs provided by nonprofit organizations in the State. The Department welcomes this assistance for enhancing offender diversion programs and strengthening community-based reentry and rehabilitation programs.

PSD notes, however, that the incarcerated population is separate and distinct from the category of diverted offenders, and may, therefore, be treated differently. Further, the Department notes that its jurisdiction ends upon an offender's release on parole or end of sentence, and once PSD's jurisdiction ends, it has no authority to order ex-offenders to participate in community-based programs, nor should the Department be responsible for administering contracts and/or services for this population. In fact, offenders sentenced to one year or less of incarceration are sentenced to jail and remain under the sole jurisdiction of the courts. Offenders

Testimony on HB 2309, HD 2
House Committee on Finance
February 28, 2022
Page 2

sentenced to serve five years or more of incarceration are sentenced to prison terms that fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Paroling Authority following conviction. It is the HPA that sets the minimum terms of imprisonment and can also reduce previously set minimum terms, including deciding to grant or deny release on parole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding HB 2309, HD 2.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2309, H.D. 2

February 28, 2022
12:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO INCARCERATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2309, H.D. 2.

H.B. No. 2309, H.D. 2, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the Department of Public Safety, Judiciary and Hawai'i Paroling Authority for FY 23 for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations within the State, provided that these appropriations shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriations are made, but no later than June 30, 2024. This bill is intended to reduce recidivism rates in the State and increase productivity in affected communities through various reentry programs.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



HB2309 HD2 Diversion and Reentry for Offenders

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, Feb 28 2022: 12:30 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Strongly Supports HB2309 HD2:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

A comprehensive program that includes diversion to treatment and reentry to community services produces better outcomes and is more cost-effective.

There are various levels of mild to chronic forms of substance use disorders, mental health disorders and even criminality. HSAC understands this very well since we treat all these issues for those who have chronic to severe levels.

Comprehensive services can address the various levels of mild to moderate to chronic for multiple reentry issues that can include specialized treatment for substance abuse and/or mental health disorders, harm reduction for lower use of substances, housing, case management, vocational training and employment, education, family integration, restorative practices and more.

- 1. For offenders with lower substance use** and either low or high functioning, it is preferable to start with housing plans, case management, education, vocational training and employment with wrap around harm reduction practices. If substance abuse continues without controlled use and especially if there are other behavioral health issues then counseling, medications, or outpatient treatment can be considered especially as for co-occurring substance misuse along with mental health disorders. Any needed substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder outpatient or counseling treatments would be best to include programming that addresses criminality issues. Medication management would be considered.
- 2. For offenders with heavy use substance use** and either low or high functionality, abstinence-based treatment is essential for what works according to research from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), the definitive

body of science for levels of care. The more chronic substance abuse, especially for addiction, would be best to start at residential or if less severe, start at outpatient treatment. Treatments would also address criminality and include medications if needed.

- a. If residential, start first and then move to housing.
 - i. Key to residential is to have complex patient capability.
 - ii. Key is to have case management after treatment that focuses on helping offenders “pursue abstinence” knowing that chronic illnesses tend to have relapses.
- b. If outpatient, then start at housing and include outpatient.
 - i. Education would be beneficial before, during and after treatment.
 - ii. Vocational training and employment can occur simultaneously with outpatient.
 - iii. Case management and medication management are key as part of and following treatment.

3. Using nationally standardized screening and assessment tools are essential to develop appropriate reentry plans to determine an integrated approach for reentry:

- a. that incorporates residential or outpatient treatment as part of housing or
- b. if substance abuse treatment is not needed, then integrate recovery-oriented services as part of housing, such as case management or medication management.
- c. Vocational is key for long-term rehabilitation.
- d. It is important that parole and probation are involved in every step with service providers.

4. HSAC Treatment Providers that provide treatment and/or prevention for substance use disorders:

Action with Aloha	Aloha House/Maui Youth & Family/Malama Family Recovery Center	Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC)
Bobby Benson Center	Coalition for Drug Free Hawaii	Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHRC)
Hina Mauka	Ka Hale Pomaika'i	Queens Day Treatment
The Salvation Army ATS		The Salvation Army FTS

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2309, HD 2

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, & Finance Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 28, 2022 (12:30 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 2309, HD 2, which appropriates funds for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations across the state.

Ideally, the Department of Public Safety would engage in a range of pre-release planning to facilitate the procurement of identity documents and provide linkage to post-release housing opportunities, medical care, and other available government support. However, current practice is to leave those released without adequate support. This dramatically increases the likelihood of joining the ranks of the unsheltered homeless. Many of those we serve struggle with obtaining identity documents, including those who have been released from carceral facilities. Pre-arrest diversion programs can also help with linking persons with available government services than can improve their health and well-being while also limiting the number of persons in local jails.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. HHRC provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Monday, February 28, 2022

TIME: 12:30 PM, Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair and members of the committee. My name is Linda Rich and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2309** on behalf of the Women's Prison project.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports the efforts described in this measure to reduce the State's rate of incarceration by funding programs that can provide pathways to diversion from pretrial detention and effectively assist the reintegration of formerly incarcerated persons back into the community. Effective diversion and reentry programs make our communities safer by providing effective services that change lives by providing needed treatment, education, skills, and support while continuing to maintain accountability.

The current rates of recidivism are high. A shift to a more rehabilitative approach to corrections, including expanding diversion and transition programs has the potential to reduce those rates while also making our communities safer.

Many studies have identified substance abuse, trauma and other mental health issues, poverty, unemployment, lack of access to health care, and affordable housing as risk factors for recidivism. Community non-profit organizations have the experience and expertise to address these issues and reduce these risks. Sadly, many of these same organizations have faced funding cuts in recent years.

In the past few years, many community based programs have experienced funding cuts that have substantially weakened the safety net of rehabilitation, treatment and furlough programs that can provide needed services to justice involved individuals. If we are serious about a transition to a rehabilitative justice and corrections system, there must be an investment in the programs that would support that transition. The proposed appropriation will allow services to return to their former capacity or to expand to provide increased levels of service for individuals in the criminal justice system. The overcrowding of our jails and prisons could be relieved. The stress that incarceration of a parent places on families could be relieved. And, the cost of incarceration could be reduced.

For all of these reasons, the Women's Prison Project strongly supports HB2309.

Mahalo for considering our thoughts on this matter. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at richl001@hawaii.rr.com

Linda Rich

Women's Prison Project



Committee: House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 28, 2022, 12:30 P.M.
Place: Via videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of HB 2309 HD2
Relating to Incarceration with a Proposed Amendment

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Yamashita, and members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of HB 2309 HD2** which appropriates funding for the development and maintenance of diversion and reentry services and programs by non-profit organizations in the State.

The ACLU advocates for the State to shift spending priorities away from mass criminalization and incarceration towards rehabilitation, education, housing, health and human services, and restorative justice in the community. This systems-change approach makes fiscal sense, and builds safe and healthy communities.

Prioritizing reentry planning and comprehensive treatment, education and support services should start at day one of incarceration, not at the tail end of a person's incarceration.¹ This reentry principle and best practice is not only humane – it makes our communities safer, and is essential now more than ever during the COVID pandemic.

Reentry programs that help people secure jobs, treatment, housing² and education³, have proven effective in facilitating the successful transition of formerly incarcerated people out of jails and prisons, and back to their families and communities. **Moreover, comprehensive support services have been shown to reduce recidivism.**

¹ Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions, *State of Hawaii, FY 2016 Cohort, 2019 Recidivism Update*. Recidivism rates are highest for persons with maximum term releases compared to persons under probation or parole supervision. Recidivism is defined as a new arrest, or the revocation of probation or parole, within three years of the start of supervision. The total recidivism rate in 2015 was 53.8%, 54.6% for Probationers, 50.1% for Parolees and 57.1% for people with Maximum Term releases.

² Nathan James, *Offender Reentry: Correctional Statistics, Reintegration into the Community and Recidivism*, Congressional Research Service (2015). <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/RL34287.pdf>

³ Patrick Oakford, Cara Brumfield, Casey Goldvale, Laura Tatum, Margaret diZerega and Fred Patrick, *Investing in Futures: Economic and Fiscal Benefits of Postsecondary Education in Prison*. New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2019, <https://www.vera.org/publications/investing-in-futures-education-in-prison>

Given that ninety-five percent of people incarcerated in our state jails and prisons will eventually be released and return home, we should invest in comprehensive reentry programs.⁴

This bill provides an opportunity to invest in community non-profit organizations that have experience providing comprehensive re-entry services, and collaborating with the public and private sector to leverage resources to meet the needs of people returning home to their families and communities.

The ACLU recommends the following amendments:

1. Provide an appropriation for the **Department of Human Services** for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations within the State, to provide services to formerly incarcerated persons exiting jails and prisons, with a special focus on housing and human services.
2. Provide an appropriation for the **Department of Health** for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations within the State, to provide services to formerly incarcerated persons exiting jails and prisons, with a special focus on health.
3. Require State Agencies and non-profit organizations who receive appropriations under this measure to submit an **Annual Report** to the State Legislature outlining how the funds have been expended, how many people have been served, a description of services provided, and measurable outcomes.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to support HB2309 HD2 with the proposed amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shiota

Carrie Ann Shiota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai'i

cshiota@acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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⁴ Timothy Hughes and Doris James Wilson, Reentry Trends in the United States, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (last revised Dec. 29, 2020), <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf>

HB-2309-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:02:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Francine Dudoit Tagupa	Waikiki Health	Support	No

Comments:

HB2309 HD2

Hearing

February 28, 2022

1:10 PM

Testimony in Support

Since 2015, Waikiki Health’s (FQHC non-profit) Pu’uhonua Prison Program has assisted at least 4,000 individuals transitioning from incarceration. While providing transitional support to those in need during the last 45 days of incarceration and the first 45 after release, we see a vast community with an array of backgrounds, barriers, and health issues. We write in support of bills HB2309 HD2, as we believe it will cut costs, improve budgets for Federally Qualified Health centers like Waikiki Health, and improve the quality of life one transitioning from jail or prison one can provide themselves with.

Everyday patients are lost to care, or in other words, fail to manage their health in the absence of clinical support. As a reentry program, we notice numerous patients experiencing disruption in their medical-social services due to technical violations that are hard to avoid. Upon their eventual release, they must start from the beginning with benefits that are not easy to reinstate. The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, for example, has suffered long delays in distribution of funds to qualified Hawaii residents due to the pandemic. Our previously incarcerated community is no exception and may even be more affected. We hear the frustration and work directly with patients who struggle keeping away from violations. From running late to their appointment with their parole officer, not being able to find a job, to not being able to reapply and reobtain identification within 45 days – there are so many obstacles that our

community tries to eliminate for this special population. There is an abundance of valid reasons that a person cannot meet the requirements that this bill aims to do away with.

If we can vote in some changes and reevaluate what “violation” means, we can reduce the amount spent on imprisoning and redirect funds into reintegration. The greatest possible solution for reentry efforts is guaranteeing a safety net for our formerly incarcerated individuals.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:8089271214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com



EXTREMELY LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, February 28, 2022

12:30 PM

STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2309 - DIVERSION AND REENTRY

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita 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 4,052 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety or the corporate vendor on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,111 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.

My deepest apologies, Chair Luke for this extremely late submission. I just saw this bill after working all weekend. Mahalo nui for scheduling it.

HB 2309 HD2 appropriates funds to the Judiciary for DIVERSION and to the Hawai`i Paroling Authority for REENTRY. Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure as it looks at the front- and the back-end of the criminal legal system.

This is what is sorely needed in Hawai`i. Please fund this to stem the tide of people flowing into the system and to help those who have served their time reenter their communities.

Please support.

Mahalo for accepting this testimony.

Testimony of

Veronica Golaszewski
University of Hawai'i, MSW Graduate Student

Before the
**Hawaii House Committees on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,
and Finance.**

On
HB2309

SUPPORT

February 28, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Ohno, Mr. Ganaden and members of the Corrections, Military, & Veterans Committee.
Thank you, Mr. Nakashima, Mr. Matayoshi and members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Committee.

Thank you, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Yamashita, and members of the Finance Committee.

**Thank you to all supporting House Committees for providing the opportunity to submit a
testimony in support of House Bill HB2309.**

I am a current Graduate student at the University of Hawai'i Manoa pursuing a Master's in Social Work. My strong passion and desire to provide and support vulnerable populations has led me to choose a career path that advocates for such possibilities. I am currently working directly with individuals recently released from incarceration. The past year I had the pleasure of supporting and educating individuals with diverse criminal backgrounds. As a professional, I am shockingly surprised by the lack of appropriate rehabilitation services, given Hawai'i's high incarceration rates and chronic homelessness. Therefore, I am testifying in favor of HB2309.

Before the Committees today is HB2309, which would correct, within the state of Hawai'i, a long-standing flaw throughout the islands. Hawai'i's local communities are endlessly among the highest populations in the criminal justice system in the state of Hawai'i. Aside from decades of historical trauma, Hawai'i's local communities are consistently subjected to acts of marginalization, oppression, and inequalities. Studies show proof that our current criminal, rehabilitant services are inadequately serving these communities concluding a need for change. In my experience, previously incarcerated individuals are often subjected to stigmatization and denied substantial work experience. By not supporting or benefiting the essential developmental needs and/or growth of Hawai'i's incarcerated communities, we are denying this population the chance for realistic change.

The House Bill HB2309 would initiate a transformation at the community level that supports and encourages the importance of nondiscriminatory change. Hawai'i's incarcerated communities should no longer suffer from the countless barriers to actively engage in our society. The incorporation of culturally relevant rehabilitation services could also subjectively promote for a sense of cultural pride and awareness that has been historically suppressed and denied. The passing of HB2309 would offer a realistic approach at decreasing Hawai'i's high incarceration rates and chronic homeless population.

Sincerely,

Veronica Golaszewski
Kailua, HI

HB-2309-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 9:35:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dr. RaeDeen M. Keahiolalo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

I strongly support all measures to reduce incarceration and appropriate funding to advance diversion, reentry and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations in the state. There is decades of evidence pointing to the effectiveness of such services and programs, not only for individuals, families and community, but also for increasing public safety.

Mahalo,

Dr. RaeDeen Keahiolalo

HB-2309-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 7:57:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

02-28-22

RE: HB2309 HD2

Aloha kakou,

I am in favor of this Bill, especially as it appropriates money for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations in the state. As a Social Worker, I am always in favor of the rehabilitative nature of criminal justice. As a Priest, I am supportive of and advocating for the restorative nature of criminal justice. The operative word, in all of my advocacy, is "justice". May this Bill allow it to flow freely, in and amongst all of us.

Me ke aloha,

John A. H. Tomoso +, MSW, ACSW

51 Ku'ula St., Kahului, Maui, Hawai'i 96732-2906

808-280-1749, john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

cc: Maui Reentry Hui