

HB-2310

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:06:42 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikos Leverenz	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center supports HB 2310.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022
TIME: 10 AM, Via Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR HB2310 RELATING TO RECIDIVISM PREVENTION

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and committee members. The Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB2310, RELATING TO RECIDIVISM PREVENTION.

HB2310 establishes a five-year pilot project to reduce recidivism and increase the chances that women will successfully rejoin the community after leaving the Women's Community Correctional Center. The pilot project has three parts—the housing voucher program, child care voucher program and the tax credit for employers who hire program participants.

The housing and child care vouchers would total a maximum of \$30,000 per participant for each of the two years after they leave WCCC. The state spends an average of \$70,000 a year to house each offender at WCCC. Women would only be eligible for the program if they are working or attending an education, substance abuse or parenting program for a combined minimum of 20 hours each week.

Hawaii's high housing and child care costs are nearly impossible to manage for a recently released woman. Poverty is the strongest predictor of recidivism among women. Providing state-sponsored support to address short-term needs such as housing reduces the odds of recidivism by 83% for poor women on probation and parole ([Holtfreder et.al. 2004](#)).

The bill also provides funding for five, full-time "transition navigators" to assist women exiting WCCC to successfully rejoin their families and the community. These positions will provide the kind of support needed for a successful transition after spending years in prison.

Thank you for considering our testimony is strong support of HB2310 and please contact me at loren@hawaiiifriends.org if you need more information about our support of this measure.

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10 AM, Via Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR HB2310 RELATING TO RECIDIVISM PREVENTION

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and committee members. The Women's Prison Project in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2310, RELATING TO RECIDIVISM PREVENTION.

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Thank you for considering our testimony is strong support of HB2310.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

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To: The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Chair;
The Honorable Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: Friday, February 04, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

Re: H.B. 2310, Relating to Recidivism Prevention

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of H.B. 2310 and offers the following comments.

H.B. 2310 creates a five-year recidivism prevention pilot program to include a housing voucher program, child care voucher program, and a nonrefundable income tax credit for employers of program participants. This measure takes effect on July 1, 2022.

The income tax credit for employers of program participants, as written in section (e)(1) of the measure, is “equal to the amount of contribution paid by the taxpayer pursuant to section 383-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), for the program participant.” Section 383-61, HRS, relates to contributions for Hawaii Employment Security Law, labor and industry.

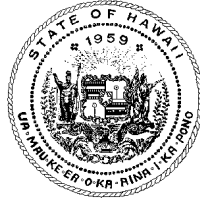
The Department notes that the measure does not contain procedure for verification of eligible employees when taxpayers claim this tax credit. The Department recommends that the measure be amended to include a provision requiring the agency administering this new program to inform the Department of who is participating in the program and who the participants are employed by.

Similarly, there is no provision for the verification of the amounts paid to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) pursuant to section 383-61, HRS. The Department recommends that the measure be amended to provide DLIR with the statutory authority to provide the Department with the information necessary to verify tax credit claims.

Finally, the Department respectfully requests that the effective date of this new tax credit be amended so that the new tax credit applies to taxable years after December 31, 2022. This will provide the Department time to make the necessary forms, instructions, and computer system changes.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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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 2310
RELATING TO RECIDIVISM PREVENTION.**

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2022; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430 & Via Video Conference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed House Bill 2310, Relating to Recidivism Prevention, which seek to appropriate funds for the development of a 5-year pilot program to assist with reentry efforts for 2 years for female offenders exiting from incarceration at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). The Department respectfully provides comments and welcomes any assistance to enhance reentry and community efforts to facilitate an offender's successful return.

It should be noted, the Department's jurisdiction ends upon the offender's release on parole or at the end of sentence and differs from jail diversion, as they are two separate and distinct categories of offenders. Following an offender's release from custody, the department's jurisdiction and responsibility to administer any contract for programs and/or services, is terminated. At that point, PSD is prohibited from issuing any orders to the now, "ex-offender", to participate in or comply with any community-based programs.

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House Committee on Corrections,
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February 4, 2022
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Offenders sentenced to the custody and care of PSD for 1-year or less are identified as jail inmates. Offenders sentenced more than 1-year of imprisonment, are identified as prison inmates, most of whom, if they aren't released at the end of sentence(s), will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), not PSD. The Department supports the intent of this measure that would enhance reentry and community opportunities.

In closing, regardless of the presiding authority, the Courts, PSD, and/or the HPA, the Department's role would only be to provide reentry programming while the offender is in the custody and care of PSD.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2310.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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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 CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2310

February 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO RECIDIVISM PREVENTION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2310 does the following: 1) establish a five-year Recidivism Prevention Pilot Program (RPPP) within the Department of Public Safety Reentry Office (PSD-RO), consisting of the housing voucher program, child care voucher program and income tax credit for employers, to assist the reentry efforts of program participants for two years following the individual's exit from the Women's Community Correctional Center; 2) establish 5.00 full-time equivalent Transition Navigator positions within the PSD-RO; and 3) appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds to PSD for FY 23 to fund the operations of RPPP, including the hiring of necessary staff.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation 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.

HB-2310

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:10:25 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members,

Strong support. Reduction of recidivism not institutionalization should always be the goal. As noted elsewhere the 2006 Hawaii State Legislature mandated through Hawaii Revised Statutes §367D-2 that the Department of Public Safety (PSD) foster a gender responsive environment by providing model gender-responsive programs for female offenders that are responsive to statewide needs.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Life-time Feminist in Mililani