

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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
SENATE BILL NO. 2373, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

April 4, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY

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

Senate Bill No. 2373, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, establishes the Project Reset Program (PRP), under the administration of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and administratively placed under the Department of Human Services (DHS), to oversee the development and implementation of comprehensive post-release housing programs to assist offenders who are transitioning back into the community. This bill also establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent position within DHS to administer PRP and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS for FY 23 to implement and administer the program.

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.

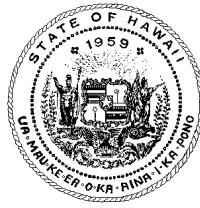
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
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MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2373, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY.

by

Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

April 4, 2022; 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, CR 308 & Via Videoconference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2373, Senate Draft (SD) 1, House Draft (HD) 1, which appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support a comprehensive post-release program, called, "Project Reset", and to establish one (1.0 FTE) full-time position to administer this program to help ex-offenders returning to the community.

PSD welcomes the opportunity to work with the Governor's Homelessness Coordinator, and the Department of Human Services (DHS), to assist exiting offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2373, SD 1, HD 1.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the House Committee on Finance**

April 4, 2022

S.B. No. 2373 SD1 HD1: RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY

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

The Office of the Public Defender supports S.B. No. 2373 SD1 HD1.

An informal working group brought together by the Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki and identified as the Ending Homelessness Group (“EHG”), representing twenty-plus representatives from eleven state, county, and non-profit agencies (including the Office of the Public Defender), has been meeting since June 2021 to discuss problems and difficulties in ending (or at least reducing) homelessness and in finding solutions to prevent and end homelessness. The EHG came up with many different proposals to meet gaps in housing, enforcement, and treatment/system flow. One such solution is to establish Project Reset.

Project Reset will address a category of homeless which is problematic for the community: inmates released from incarceration. This group can include individuals who were homeless prior to their arrest as well as those who lost their housing while incarcerated. The attorneys at our office know that their homeless clients have the best chance of success when released directly into a treatment program, but not everyone will have access to those resources. There are not enough beds available for every inmate that qualifies for early release to a program. Furthermore, coordinating inmate release to treatment programs has been extremely difficult during the pandemic due to quarantine and social distancing requirements at programs as well as numerous outbreaks at our correctional facilities. Inmates can spend their entire jail sentence waiting for release to a program before simply being released on felony probation.

Although inmates released on parole benefit from the work furlough program prior to release, there is no work furlough program for inmates sentenced to felony probation. There is also no work furlough option for sentenced misdemeanants and those who serve out their maximum prison term. These inmates are often released

from custody with no money, no identification, no housing, no food, no bus pass, and no phone. Due to the lack of comprehensive programs that focus on transitioning them through the processes of reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing, they either immediately join the homeless upon release or shortly thereafter.

Currently, homeless individuals are passed off from specialty to specialty, but there is no one to help them navigate to a stable life in the community. It is a complex process, especially for one incarcerated for an extended period of time; they need help getting a job, getting an identification card to get a job, finding housing, learning new technology, etc. Currently, individuals who leave extended periods of incarceration for parole or time served move immediately to homeless encampments. These individuals need to be supported prior to release to give them the best chance of reentry. Maximizing the pre-release time to get an individual the necessary assistance would reduce the likelihood of them becoming homeless and reoffending.

Reentry programs are the best unused weapon that we have against recidivism. A reentry program would divert the ex-offender from homelessness and reoffending. While there are programs that assist with certain phases of transition, there is no coordination to help incarcerated individuals through the entire complex process. What is missing is a coordinator/guide who will work with the inmate *prior to* and *after* release in creating a plan to guide them into housing and work programs. Such a program would minimize the likelihood of released inmates becoming homeless once released.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

April 4, 2022

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

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB 2373 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY.**

Hearing: Monday, April 4, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, respectfully offers comments, and suggests amendments if the measure proceeds. The Coordinator requests that the measure's passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish and appropriate funds for a program named Project Reset to help inmates secure post-release housing, in support of reentry, rehabilitation, and employment prospects.

The Coordinator acknowledges the importance of reentry services and appreciates the amendments by the House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans to establish one full-time equivalent position within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to administer the program. However, it is unclear whether the appropriation provided for Project Reset will cover the cost of the new staff position. If the measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests the bill be amended to clarify that the appropriation includes the establishment of the new staff position and defers to DHS regarding the level of funding necessary for the position.

Additionally, the Coordinator requests clarification that the appropriation for Project Reset includes housing subsidies for offenders who do not qualify for other housing assistance

programs, as well as incentives for landlords who agree to rent to this population. Notably, many offenders exiting incarceration will not qualify for housing subsidies targeted towards homeless individuals, as offenders who have been incarcerated longer than 90-days do not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of “homeless” or “chronically homeless.” Also, HUD federal rules prohibit lifetime registered sex offenders from admission to HUD-subsidized housing, so incentives are necessary to encourage other landlords to provide housing for this population.

The ability to provide housing subsidies or landlord incentives for those who are ineligible for other housing assistance programs will enhance the ability of Project Reset to achieve the goal of implementing a “comprehensive post-release housing program to assist offenders who are transitioning back into the community.” The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) estimates that there is a need for 528 supportive housing vouchers or units in Hawaii specifically for individuals exiting prison.¹ CSH estimates are based on jail, prison, probation, and parole system census counts from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Additionally, the Coordinator shares the concern of DHS expressed in prior testimony that a one-time appropriation is not sufficient to establish a new program and agrees with DHS that a one-time appropriation could instead be added to existing programs’ capacity to target individuals reentering community. Notably, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) currently includes a Reentry Coordination Office (RCO) that is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive reentry system for individuals entering and exiting correctional facilities in order to increase a person’s potential for successful reentry into the community. In addition, there are a number of other bills proposing comprehensive reentry services – including SB3293 and SB3294 – that recently passed out of the House Committee on Finance and are pending third reading in the House.

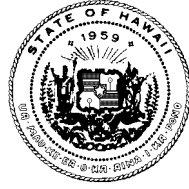
If this measure proceeds, it is necessary for Project Reset to work together with other programs administered and coordinated by RCO, and for DPS and RCO to provide consistent and safe access to correctional facilities so programs can effectively provide pre-release services to offenders. As mentioned in testimony from the Office of the Public Defender, work

¹ Corporation for Supportive Housing estimates available at: <https://www.csh.org/supportive-housing-101/data/>.

to support successful reentry begins prior to release and “maximizing the pre-release time to get an individual the necessary assistance would reduce the likelihood of them becoming homeless and reoffending.” Critical pre-release steps to support reentry include ensuring offenders are released with identification documents and are connected to job skills and educational programs during incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

April 3, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2373 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY.**

Hearing: April 4, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure, defers to the Department of Public Safety (PSD), and offers comments and clarification.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a position and appropriates funds for a program named "project reset," which will help offenders secure post-release housing to support their reentry, rehabilitation, and employment. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation from \$375,000 to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Establishing one full-time equivalent position within the Department of Human Services to administer the project reset program;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000; and

(3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS agrees that more resources are needed to assist individuals with reentering the community after incarceration. DHS will support the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and work collaboratively with PSD and community providers. However, this one-time appropriation may not be enough to establish a new program, though one-time funds may be added to existing programs' capacity to target individuals reentering the community. If the appropriation is one-time, investing in existing outreach services or additional rental assistance would best maximize the appropriation to support reentering individuals.

If the Legislature intends Project Reset to be long-term, sustained funding will be needed. The Department recommends appropriations for a full-time planner, with the salary range of \$62,136 - \$91,968, and for operational expenses (i.e., IT, office space, furniture), and funds for benefits and services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thirty-first State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai`i

April 4, 2022

RE: S.B. 2373, S.D. 1, H.D. 1; RELATING TO OFFENDER ENTRY.

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2373, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

The purpose of S.B. 2373, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 is to establish and fund a program—Project Reset—to oversee the development and implementation of a housing program specifically designed to assist offenders exiting correctional facilities. Project Reset would assist inmates through the process of reentry, rehabilitation, employment and housing.

The Department strongly believes that minimizing recidivism is a key component to ensuring public safety for Hawaii in the long run, and supports the concept of “wraparound services” for a holistic and comprehensive approach to offender reentry. Proper coordination of services, steady employment and stable housing will undoubtedly assist offenders who are transitioning back into society, by equipping them to live as contributing, law-abiding citizens.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports passage of S.B. 2373, S.D. 1, H.D. 1. Thank for you the opportunity to testify on this matter.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2373, SD 1, HD 1

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

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: April 4, 2022 (2:30 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2373, SD 1, HD 1, which appropriates funds for a program (Project Reset) which will help prisoners with reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing.

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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, April 1, 2022, at 2:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference**

RE: SB 2373 SD1 HD1 Relating to Offender Reentry

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2373 SD1/HD1, which Appropriates funds for a program named Project Reset which will help prisoners with reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing post-sentence.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Project Reset and other reentry programs are vital to the success of recently released people in our state. Obtaining post-release housing, transportation, and other assistance is needed to have the chance to obtain employment. By obtaining employment, recently released individuals are not only helping themselves get back on their feet, but helps their families, their community, and the economy of the state.

One of the biggest roadblocks to employment of recently released individuals is that they do not have the necessary support to even think about obtaining employment and bettering their lives. By passing this bill and supporting Project Reset, the state is taking a step in the right direction to ensuring that recently released people have the support they need to reenter society and contribute to making their community a better place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SB2373 SD1 HD1 Project Reset Offender Housing Reentry

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, Apr 4 2022: 2:30 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2373 SD1 HD1:

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.

HSAC supports and recommends adding valid screening and assessments to guide the development of reentry plans that would include various levels of treatment and address criminality issues.

HSAC hopes that the services will become more comprehensive for Project Reset, which will provide comprehensive programs to assist inmates through the process of reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing.

1. **For offenders with lower substance use** and either low or high functioning, it is preferable to start with housing and add services especially case management if needed for any behavioral health issue such as substance misuse or mental health disorders. Any needed substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder 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.
 - b. If outpatient, then start at housing and include outpatient.

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.

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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Monday, April 4, 20

2:30 PM

SUPPORT - SB 2373 HD1 - PROJECT RESET - HELPING RETURNING CITIZENS

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 HD1 of the more than 3,993 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,110 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 appreciates this opportunity to lend our support to SB 2373 HD1. Project Reset aims to assist returning citizens to successfully transition to society. The appropriation was originally \$375,000.

DHS Clarified in testimony that although the Governor appoints the Coordinator, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is a part of the Director's Office of the Department of Human Services. During Governor Ige's administration, the Coordinator and staff are physically located with the Governor's staff at the capitol. As the Coordinator is already a part of the Department, a new program does not need to be administratively attached to the Department.

This is so important because people are being released every day with no identification documents and no money. Although inmates released on parole benefit from the work furlough program prior to release, there is no work furlough program for inmates sentenced to felony probation.

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 21, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-21.pdf>

There is also no work furlough option for sentenced misdemeanants and those who serve out their maximum prison term. These unlucky inmates are released from custody with no money, no identification, no housing, no food, no bus pass, and no phone. This is the recipe for recidivism.

Community Alliance on Prisons agrees with the Department of Human Services that this program needs more than one-time funding. Funding for programs that address some of the most vulnerable people in our communities should be a line in the budget so programs like Project Reset don't have to fight every year to continue offering these valuable services.

Due to the lack of comprehensive programs that focus on transitioning people through the processes of reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing, some people either immediately join the homeless upon release or shortly thereafter.

Hawai'i can reduce the challenges one faces after release by passing legislation like this that assists the whole human being navigate their way back to society.

Project Reset is that safety net that will assist returning citizens so that they do not become homeless but instead receive much needed services.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to pass SB 2373. Project Reset is an important anti-recidivism measure with an adequate appropriation.

*"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring,
all of which have the potential to turn a life around."*

Leo Buscaglia

SB-2373-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 11:08:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support.

SB-2373-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 5:54:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2373-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:49:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Castro	Blueprint For Change	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mary Ann Castro

House Committee on Finance

SB2373 - RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee:

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT SB2373:

To allow the establishment and appropriation of funds for the program named Project Reset, to help inmates secure post-release housing, in support of reentry, rehabilitation, and employment prospects. This will help reduce the recidivism rates here in Hawai'i and help individuals get back on their feet and provide a smoother transition back into the community.

I strongly urge the committee to pass SB2373. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.