

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

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

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2373

**February 22, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY

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

Senate Bill No. 2373 establishes the Project Reset Program, under the administration of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and administratively placed under the Department of Human Services, 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 appropriates \$375,000 in general funds 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



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

February 17, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: February 22, 2022, 10:00 a.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), offers comments and clarification.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for a program named Project Reset which will help prisoners with reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing post-sentence.

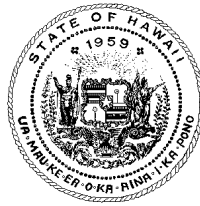
DHS agrees that more resources are needed to assist individuals with reentering the community after incarceration. DHS will support the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and work collaboratively with PSD. However, this one-time appropriation may not be enough to establish a new program though funds may be added to existing program capacity to target individuals reentering the community.

Also, to clarify 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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
1177 Alakea Street  
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 SENATE BILL 2373  
RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY.

by  
Max N. Otani, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 22, 2022; 10:00 a.m.  
Video Conference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 2373, which seeks to establish and fund a new project to be named, "Project Reset", with the purpose of overseeing the development and implementation of comprehensive post-release programs to assist offenders transitioning back to the community. The new "Project Reset" will be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and placed administratively within the Department of Human Services (DHS).

PSD supports SB 2373 and pledges to work closely with the Governor's Homelessness Coordinator and DHS on this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity submit testimony on SB 2373.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure and respectfully offers comments. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Public Safety.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget request.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$375,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a program named Project Reset, which will help prisoners with reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing post-sentence.

The Coordinator acknowledges the importance of reentry programs that support individuals exiting the jail and prison systems with services including housing and employment. In 2017, as part of the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI), Aloha United Way funded a report, [\*Touchpoints on Homelessness: institutional Discharged as a Window of Opportunity for Hawaii's Homeless\*](#), that estimated 25-50% of individuals experiencing homelessness have a history of incarceration.<sup>1</sup> The report also recommended that strategies to support successful reentry include providing more comprehensive pre-release assistance from

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<sup>1</sup> Report available at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Touchpoints-of-Homelessness-Report-Final.pdf>

jail or prison, providing predictability and basic necessities as part of the jail or prison release process, and providing and encouraging jail or prison access for social service providers to work with inmates before release.

According to homeless service providers, it is challenging to locate housing or employment for individuals released from jail and prison because many individuals lack identification documents, such as government-issued identification (ID), birth certificate, or social security card. The 2017 *Touchpoints on Homelessness* report also describes similar challenges. In addition, according to the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) [2021 Reentry Coordination Office Annual Report on Civil Identification Documents](#),<sup>2</sup> the lack of identification documents continues to be a challenge for individuals leaving jail and prison. For example, the 2021 PSD report shared that between November 30, 2019, and September 30, 2020, 432 individuals exited prison without an ID card, and 246 individuals exited jail without an ID card. Accordingly, there is concern that Project Reset may be unsuccessful without additional focused efforts before release that concentrate on increasing the number of individuals exiting jail and prison with identification documents.

The Coordinator notes that one additional Full Time Equivalent (1.0 FTE) position will be necessary to administer the program.

Further, if this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests Project Reset be expanded to include services provided before release, and that these services are coordinated with the work of the DPS Reentry Coordination Office to increase efficiency, minimize duplication of effort, and ensure access to provide services within corrections facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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<sup>2</sup> Report available at: <https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Reentry-Coordination-Report-on-ID-Documents-Act-56-SLH-2017-210421.pdf>

**LATE**

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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**THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**Thirty-first State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2022**  
**State of Hawai`i**

February 22, 2022

**RE: S.B. 2373; RELATING TO OFFENDER ENTRY.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2373.

The purpose of S.B. 2373 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. Thank for you the opportunity to testify on this matter.



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2373

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 22, 2022 (10:00 AM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2373, 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.

**SB-2373**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:44:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Laurie Tomchak	Testifying for League of Woman Voters	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important bill to prevent incarcerated people from becoming homeless and reoffending. It can provide help in finding employment, education, and housing, and is a good way of spending public funds rather than paying for incarceration and re-incarceration.



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.  
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

**TO:** Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz,  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
  
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran,  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Connie Mitchell MS, APRN, BC, Executive Director  
IHS, The Institute for Human Services

**SUBJECT:** [S.B. 2373](#) – RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY

**HEARING:** February 22, 2022, 10:00 am Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**POSITION:** IHS supports the passing of S.B. 2373.

IHS, the Institute for Human Services, stands in support of S.B. 2373. This bill is meant to bring housing assistance and supportive services to the population of formerly incarcerated people that do not qualify for programs designed to serve “chronically homeless” individuals.

The “Project Reset” program will be a comprehensive, wrap-around service to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in securing “post-release housing, including transitional housing and permanent housing, as necessary, to support the offender's reentry, rehabilitation, and employment prospects.” This will make a significant impact on ensuring the success of these individuals because housing stability reduces the tendency towards recidivism. IHS has seen through its re-entry houses that steady employment and housing are the key drivers of long-term success in this population.

Important to the success of “Project Reset” clients will be the continuity of case management and services utilized. IHS and other agencies have begun to provide such pre and post tenancy services funded by DHS's Medicaid Community Integration Services (CIS). This could be a good funding source to pair with the program for the supportive service needs of participants in the Reset Program.

Thank you.



**SB-2373**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:25:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kat Brady	Testifying for Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee!

Mahalo for scheduling this bill that seeks to reduce recidivism by addressing the needs of people who are released from incarceration.

It is well-established that reentry programs are an important strategy in helping people transitioning from institutional to community life.

Please support this measure.

Mahalo nui.

Kat Brady, on behalf of Community Alliance on Prisons

**LATE**

**SB-2373**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:01:53 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Linda Rich	Testifying for Women's Prison Project	Support	No

Comments:

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 22, 2022

TIME: 10:00 AM, Via Videoconference

**SUPPORT FOR SB2373 RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY**

The Women’s Prison project **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB2373 which will provide comprehensive programs to assist inmates through the process of reentry, rehabilitation, employment, and housing. We know that the lack of safe affordable housing is a significant barrier to successful reentry into the community for both men and women transitioning from incarceration to the community.

While this bill emphasizes housing, comprehensive programs require a comprehensive assessment , and for women, a gender responsive assessment. Rehabilitation for some may require residential treatment for substance use disorders prior to housing. For women, there is often also a need for services to address trauma, including domestic violence and support for reunification with children. Child care is a necessity for transitioning mothers who must enter the workforce and lack family support to provide safe care for young children.

In addition to much needed housing, there is a need to assist transitioning offenders in navigating the many systems with which they must interact to obtain needed services. Women’s Prison Project believes that the funding included in this bill should be sufficient to include the addition of 4 “Navigator” positions within the Department of Human Services who are able to begin services prior to individuals’ release dates in coordination with Department of Public Safety personnel. Accomplishing SB2373’s stated goals of supporting transitioning individuals through reentry, rehabilitation, securing housing and employment will be a complex process, but one which holds the promise of successful rehabilitation and reduced recidivism.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for considering our thoughts on SB2373

Linda Rich for Women's Prison Project