

DAVID Y. IGE
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CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 13, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2375 SD1 – RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.**

Hearing: March 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill requires the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work. Requires progress reports on the program to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Providing that eligible participants in the program may include all nonviolent incarcerated individuals, rather than nonviolent misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants only, as suggested in written comments from the Community Alliance on Prisons;
- (2) Clarifying that participants should be trained to explore a professional pathway in the practice of social work, as suggested in written comments from the Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and

(4) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department appreciates the SD1 amendments to establish a program that explores a pathway toward social work practice. Given the continuing stress and impacts of the pandemic, the need and demand for social workers, mental health providers, or individuals with those skills will increase. In addition, employment is a strong protective factor against recidivism, and incarcerated individuals may bring with them lived experience expertise that could be useful in the social work field and the community.

Department is aware of models where incarcerated individuals gain high school diplomas and college credits while incarcerated. However, these models generally have strong leadership from higher education, and the Department and PSD will likely need technical assistance from higher education, other skills-building, or mentorship programs.

Several other measures contemplate additional reentry, family, and community resources, including HB 1741 HD1 Relating To Children And Family of Incarcerated Individuals. The Department, PSD, and community organizations have partnered to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu. Additionally, DHS administration measure SB3111 SD2 Relating to Family Resource Centers, is a partnership with the Departments of Education and Health, the Office of Youth Services, the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, and community organizations. SB3111 SD2 aims to establish a school- and community-based network of family resource centers. A cadre of social workers, paraprofessionals, or peer specialists with justice system experiences would be a valuable resource to individuals and families impacted by incarceration.

The Department will collaborate with PSD, higher education, and other agencies and community organizations on this innovative proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

9:00 AM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2375 SD1 – EDUCATION: PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL WORK

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam 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 4,008 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts. Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure that offers pathways to social work to nonviolent incarcerated persons. We appreciate the SD1 amendments that open this opportunity to more persons and the NASW amendment that strengthens the bill by adding the highlighted language, **“to assist nonviolent incarcerated individuals in exploring a professional pathway in the practice of social work and becoming eligible for employment as assistants to licensed social workers.”**

What a great way to help a person plan for a successful reentry into the community!

Passage of this measure for incarcerated people who have lived experience in the system is a benefit to all. It is one thing to study an issue, and quite another to have lived experience that can offer new and innovative ways to lift up some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

We ask the committee to support this measure and help people explore opportunities they might never have imagined!

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 7, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-97.pdf>



SB2375 SD1 Offender Education for Social Work
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Tuesday, Mar 15 2022: 9:00 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2375 SD1:

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.

There could be potential here.

A successful candidate for social work starts with education and includes:

1. Empathy, communication, organization
2. Commitment, ethics, patience
3. Active listening, critical thinking, cultural competence
4. Self-care, organization, and
5. Willingness to be trained and developed.

Successful reentry contains these elements *if needed*:

- 1. Substance use disorder treatment or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment**
- 2. Mental health treatment (no substance abuse)**
- 3. Criminality programs to change attitudes and beliefs about crime.**
- 4. Housing**
- 5. Family reunification**
- 6. Employment and/or Education**
- 7. Support from Probation/Parole**
- 8. Case management as needed.**
- 9. Healthcare**
- 10. Mentoring**

Reentry is a highly cost-effective investment.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available to answer questions. Aloha, HSAC

SB-2375-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:50:10 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

Stand in support.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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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 2375, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

March 15, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill (SB) 2375, Senate Draft (SD) 1 seeks to require the Department of Public Safety (PSD), in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS), to develop and establish a program to encourage non-violent offenders to explore a professional pathway in the practice of social work. If enacted, this measure would also require PSD to provide progress reports to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2023 and 2024 Legislative sessions. In addition, the measure seeks to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds for this initiative.

The Department acknowledges the Legislature for this thoughtful initiative and offers the following comments. Specifically, PSD notes that petty misdemeanants serve jail terms of up to 30 days, and misdemeanants serve jail terms of up to 1 year. Therefore, these categories of non-violent offenders are not in the custody

and/or under the jurisdiction of PSD long enough to complete the required four (4) years of college to earn social work degrees.

Also, while non-violent felony offenders are incarcerated for longer periods of time with PSD, it would be difficult to provide the required courses at various facilities, given the unique operational challenges inherent with managing correctional facilities and incarcerated populations.

Further, by policy, incarcerated offenders under the jurisdiction of PSD cannot provide case management counseling for other offenders under the Department's jurisdiction. Doing so would create situations in which offenders would be privy to very sensitive and private information pertaining to other offenders serving various terms of imprisonment, which could negatively affect the operations and good governance of the facility. Moreover, contracting with higher educational institutions is very costly and may cause financial losses to the State if offenders do not complete the required courses and programming.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2375, SD 1.

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

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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,
& HOMELESSNESS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2375, S.D. 1

March 15, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

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

Senate Bill No. 2375, S.D. 1, amends Chapter 353H, HRS, and does the following: 1) require the Department of Public Safety (PSD), in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work; 2) require progress reports on the program to the Legislature; and 3) appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds to PSD for FY 23 for the development of 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

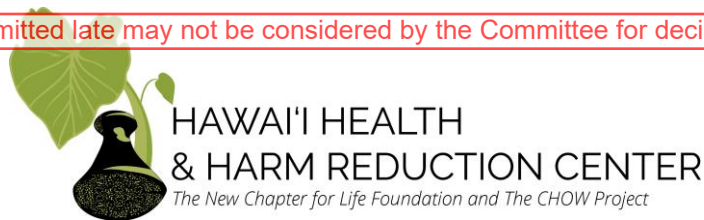
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

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.



To: Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday March 15th 9:00 AM

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2375 SD1

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) supports SB 2375 SD1 and respectfully provides comments to expand the scope of this bill to include certified peer specialists. Peer specialists for mental health and substance abuse have long-histories of effectively working with people who may be struggling with behavioral health issues. More recently, the Hawaii Department of Health has started a Forensic Peer Specialist program which is specifically for people with a history of incarceration who can be certified to work with people involved in the criminal legal system.

As a social worker, I strongly support increasing access to education and training to become a licensed social worker, but also know that there are many challenges in integrating accredited social work programs into systems such as correctional facilities. By adding Peer Specialists, which are already commonly used in correctional settings on the continent, this would provide a much needed foundation for those potentially interested in pursuing a higher degree in the future.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday - March 15, 2022 9am via Videoconference

Testimony in Support with Comments Seeking Clarifications in SB2375 SD1 RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) supports SB2375 SD1, which would require the Departments of Public Safety and Human Services to coordinate to establish a program to train nonviolent, incarcerated individuals in the area of social work.

NASW-HI greatly appreciates the spirit and intent of this measure, which would encourage misdemeanants, with valuable life experience interfacing with social service organizations, to train and pursue employment opportunities in the area of social work, once released. However, we respectfully request that the language in the bill be revised so that it does not imply that a license in social work - requiring a masters degree including practicum experience, as well as a licensure exam, can be accomplished via apprenticeship through this program.

Accordingly, NASW-HI respectfully the following amendment to page 2, lines 14-20

"§353H- Incarcerated individuals; social work training program; established. (a) The department shall develop and establish a program, in collaboration with the department of human services, to train incarcerated nonviolent misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants in the area of social work to explore a professional pathway in the practice of social work, and become eligible for employment as assistants to licensed social workers ~~[or individuals on a pathway to be a licensed social worker]."~~

To better understand the distinction between working in "the area of social work" and the "Practice of Social Work," this description adopted by the NASW is helpful:

Social work practice consists of the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors.

We would happy to assist in further developing the details of this proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

 MSW, LCSW

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LCSW

Executive Director,

National Association of Social Workers- Hawai'i Chapter