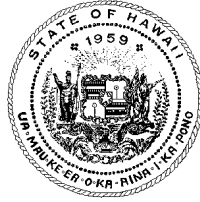


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 SENATE BILL 2375
RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.**

by
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

February 10, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

Chairs Nishihara and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Ihara, and
Members of the Committees:

Senate Bill (SB) 2375, 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 train incarcerated non-violent individuals in the area 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 Sessions. In addition, the measure would appropriate an unspecified amount of funds for this initiative.

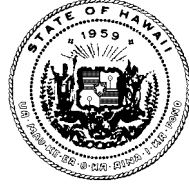
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) acknowledges the Legislature for this thoughtful initiative and offers the following comments. Specifically, PSD notes that petty misdemeanants serve jail terms of up to 30 days and misdemeanants serve jail terms of up to 1 year. Therefore, these categories of non-violent offenders are not in the custody and/or under the jurisdiction of PSD long enough to complete the required 4-years of college in order to earn social work degrees.

Testimony on Senate Bill 2375
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Human Services
February 10, 2022
Page 2

In addition, by policy, incarcerated offenders under the jurisdiction of PSD cannot provide case management counseling for other offenders under the Department's jurisdiction. Moreover, contracting with higher educational institutions is very costly and may cause financial losses to the State if offenders do not complete the required 4-year social work degree program.

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

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 9, 2022

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: February 10, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

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

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.

DHS agrees there is a statewide shortage of social workers. Given the continuing stress and impacts of the pandemic, the need for social workers and mental health providers will increase. The department knows that 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.

The department is aware of models where incarcerated individuals may gain high school diplomas and college credits while incarcerated. These models generally have strong

leadership from higher education. The department will collaborate with PSD, higher education, and other organizations on this innovative proposal; however, DHS requests clarification as to the scope of the expected involvement of DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2375

February 10, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

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

Senate Bill No. 2375 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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy San Buenaventura

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, February 10, 2022

1:00 PM

SB 2375 - SUPPORT w AMENDMENTS - SOCIAL WORK TRAINING

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Ihara, and Members of the Committees!

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 4,085 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.

SB 2375 requires the department of public safety to collaborate with the department of human services to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent persons in the area of social work.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this program as a wonderful idea. Our only concern is that it is only to be offered to misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants who are usually in jail serving one year or less. Is this enough time to adequately train an individual in the sensitive area of social work?

Our amendment would offer this great program to all incarcerated persons who are serving sentences of more than one year. Section 2 of the bill would, therefore, be amended to read:

SECTION 2. Chapter 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§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 nonviolent ~~misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants~~ **incarcerated persons** in the area of social work to become eligible for employment as assistants to licensed social workers or individuals on a pathway to be a licensed social worker.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and considering our amendment.

Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful for the chance to testify in support of this bill with our amendment.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, February 10, 2022 - 1:00pm - via videoconference

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

The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) supports SB2375, 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.

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



SB2375 Offender Education for Social Work

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb 10 2022: 1:00 pm : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2375:

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. Aloha, HSAC

SB-2375

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:02:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in Support.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Lynn DeCoite

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1300 HST

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2375 Relating to Social Work

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and the members of the Committee on Human Services; Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Lynn DeCoite, and the members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Mahalo for hearing SB2375 which will appropriate funds and require the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated non-violent individuals in the area of social work. I am writing in **strong support** of SB2375.

There is a critical shortage of social workers despite the surge in social problems that warrant intervention and support. Additionally, direct-service providers are beginning to realize the importance of lived experience when delivering trauma-informed care. As a criminal justice major, I have a lot of classmates who seek careers in case management or social work. One of the most important values we learn about when studying case management is the importance of building rapport with the client; this keeps both parties accountable to each other.

During my leisure time, I like to engage with my unhoused neighbors; many of them have been incarcerated for nonviolent offenses. We often talk story about a better future. Contrary to popular belief, our unhoused neighbors do seek careers; however, if they can't afford the basic necessities such as housing, how can they pay for tuition? Additionally, being unhoused in an unstable way to live; one must be in a constant state of survival, and take it day-by-day. A program to train incarcerated non-violent individuals in the area of social work will be beneficial in at least three ways:

1. It will fill a much-needed social worker shortage
2. The incarcerated people will have a career which can sustain them upon re-entry
3. Their lived-experience will be beneficial to the recipients of social services; as someone with lived experience is better equipped to address the barriers that limit success

I believe the provisions outlined in SB2375 is an investment in our communities, and our future.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Soon Kim
Senate District 15

**To: Committee on Human Services
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

LATE

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday February 10, 2022

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2375

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Human Services and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) supports SB 2375 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.

HHRC'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