

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
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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 COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2433

March 2, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAMS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2433.

S.B. No. 2433 does the following: 1) require the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to expand existing model programs to make more quality correctional education courses available to interested inmates; 2) require PSD to reward inmates who participate in or complete correctional education programs while incarcerated with subsidized health insurance, housing, or tuition after release; 3) expand existing vocational and work furlough programs and establish earn and learn apprenticeships which allow eligible inmates to work towards licensure under supervised apprenticeships while getting paid; and 4) appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds to PSD for FY 23 to expand existing model programs.

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 28, 2022

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

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2433 – RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAMS.**

Hearing: March 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the measure's intent, offers comments, requests clarifications, and defers to the Department of Public Safety. The Department requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Public Safety to expand existing model programs to make more quality correctional education courses available to interested inmates. Requires the Department of Public Safety to reward inmates who participate in or complete correctional education programs while incarcerated with subsidized health insurance, housing, or tuition after release. Expands existing vocational and work furlough programs and establishes earn and learn apprenticeships which allow eligible inmates to work towards licensure under supervised apprenticeships while getting paid. Appropriates funds.

The Department agrees that more resources are needed to support inmates exiting the State's jails and prisons and appreciates this measure's intent. Reentry and transition support programs should begin as soon as an individual is incarcerated. These programs are much needed to help these individuals succeed during and post-incarceration. Many incarcerated individuals are caretakers, breadwinners, or single persons who have no one to turn to for support. Upon release, without the skills and minimum qualifications, including the education requirement to re-enter the workforce, it is difficult to support their families or themselves.

DHS offers suggestions to consider including peer support programs and peer specialists as part of the reentry programs. Peer support specialists are individuals who have the lived expertise and experience of incarceration. These peer specialists can offer non-judgmental support to develop or improve the social capital and offer general education development and work skills/developing employability.

Additionally, DHS suggests rehabilitation programs that are culturally appropriate and gender-responsive. The national movement on racial and gender equality and equity continues to address the needs of various cultural groups recognizing different cultural practices and acknowledging historical and intergenerational trauma. Addressing historical and intergenerational trauma through culturally responsive and appropriate rehabilitation programs will be key for the successes of those incarcerated individuals during and after incarceration.

DHS requests clarification if the Legislature intends to provide state general funds for the identified subsidies for housing, healthcare, and tuition post-incarceration or whether the expectation is that former inmates will access existing federally or state-funded programs. DHS will continue to work with PSD to develop pre-exit strategies so that inmates have the necessary information to access existing programs as soon as they can after exiting jail or prison. However, the primary resource that men and women exiting jail or prison need is safe housing; it is challenging to follow up with individuals who do not have an address. The Department will work with PSD to develop a process to facilitate the access by former jail and prison inmates to existing DHS benefit programs. For example, the DHS Med-QUEST division has a working relationship with PSD to have prison inmates apply for Medicaid coverage before

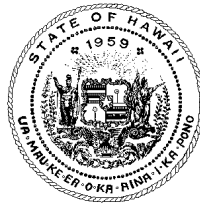
exiting. In addition, our staff has provided training to community groups working with former inmates on accessing DHS programs.

Notably, the Legislature should also consider that, depending upon the individual's household size upon exiting jail or prison, if these are new kinds of vouchers, it is unclear how DHS programs will consider these vouchers for eligibility for existing programs. DHS is open to discussion on how to maximize existing resources to accomplish the purpose of this measure.

DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation of general funds not replace budget priorities identified in the Executive Budget. It will take sustained investment by the Legislature to support this ongoing work to build a comprehensive and successful evidence-based approach to support families involved and impacted by the justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 2344
RELATING TO OFFENDEER REENTRY PROGRAMS.

By

Max N. Otani, Director

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

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 2, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2433, which encourages inmates to participate in correctional educational programs and vocational training.

Through the Corrections Program Service Division (CPS), the Department provides a range of educational opportunities that are essential to preparing offenders for their return to the community. Currently, CPS education staff provides Adult Education programs at all correctional facilities statewide. The courses include adult basic education at various levels (reading, writing, math), leading up to preparing for and taking the GED examination. The McKinley Community School for Adults at the Moanalua Campus provides additional assistance employing Department of Education contract teachers. Hawaii Friends for Restorative Justice, funded by the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Grant (GEER), is in its first

year of a pilot program that provides training and certification for peer education tutors and college correspondence courses at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).

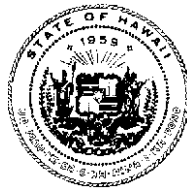
The Department is also a proud recipient of the Second Chance Pell grant via Chaminade University that provides post-secondary education at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) and a federal grant via the Windward Community College Pu`uhonua Program that provides post-secondary courses at the WCCC.

CPS has agreements with the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Office of Research Services, "Go Farm/Agriculture", Leeward Community College (LCC), Kapiolani Community College's (KCC) Culinary Arts Program, Hawaii Community College (HCC), and Windward Community College (WCC) to provide additional college correspondence courses, training, and services for the inmate population. These courses are provided at no cost to the inmate.

Other educational and vocational training opportunities include career explorations, workplace essentials, employment services, food safety/sanitation, forklift certification, computer skills, general construction trade, photovoltaic installation, plumbing, and welding.

The Department notes that by court order, an inmate is no longer under the care and custody of the Director of PSD upon release, and for this simple reason, opposes providing tuition assistance, health insurance benefits, and monthly rent supplement payments after an inmate is released from custody. To aid in obtaining health insurance as part of an inmate's reentry process, PSD'S Reentry Coordination Office works with community partners to ensure the inmate has access to proper medical care/treatment once released.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

February 10, 2022

TO: Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Way and Means Committee

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission

SUBJECT: **SB 2433, RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY PLANNING PROGRAMS**

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Chairs Delacruz and Rhoads, and Members of the Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees:

The Hawaii Corrections System Oversight Commission was created by Act 179, SLH 2019, to provide independent oversight over our correctional system. The Commission's statutory responsibilities include monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program of the Department of Public Safety and ensuring that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole. [See Hawaii Revised Statutes 353L-3(b).]

The Commission strongly supports SB 2433, which would fund educational and vocational programs for reentry opportunities for offenders being released from our correctional facilities. This mandate would be consistent with the requirement in HRS 353H-3 that the Department of Public Safety develop a "comprehensive network of transitional programs to address the needs of individuals exiting the correctional system." Such a network promotes community safety by facilitating the adjustment from the highly structured prison setting to independent living. These transitional services work best when the link inmates in prison with the communities to which they inmates.

It is a good start, nevertheless, and we urge your favorable consideration.



SB2433 Comprehensive Reentry Services

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 2 2022: 9:30 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Strongly Supports SB2433:

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.

A comprehensive program produces better outcomes and is more cost-effective.

There are various levels of mild to chronic forms of substance use disorders, mental health disorders and even criminality. HSAC understands this very well since we treat all these issues for those who have chronic to severe levels.

Comprehensive services can address the various levels of mild to moderate to chronic for multiple reentry issues that can include specialized treatment for substance abuse and/or mental health disorders, harm reduction for lower use of substances, housing, case management, vocational training and employment, education, family integration, restorative practices and more.

- 1. For offenders with lower substance use and either low or high functioning, it is preferable to start with housing plans, case management, education, vocational training and employment with wrap around harm reduction practices.** If substance abuse continues without controlled use and especially if there are other behavioral health issues then counseling, medications, or outpatient treatment can be considered especially as for co-occurring substance misuse along with mental health disorders. Any needed substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder outpatient or counseling 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, abstinent-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.
 - i. Key to residential is to have complex patient capability.
 - ii. Key is to have case management after treatment that focuses on helping offenders “pursue abstinence” knowing that chronic illnesses tend to have relapses.
 - b. If outpatient, then start at housing and include outpatient.
 - i. Education would be beneficial before, during and after treatment.
 - ii. Vocational training and employment can occur simultaneously with outpatient.
 - iii. Case management and medication management are key as part of and following treatment.
- 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.

Hawaii
Holding Power Accountable

Statement Before The
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
9:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2433

RELATING TO THE OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAMS.

Chairs RHOADS and DELA CRUZ, Vice Chairs KEOHOKALOLE and KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2433, which (1) requires the Department of Public Safety to expand existing model programs to make more quality correctional education courses available to interested inmates, (2) requires the Department of Public Safety to reward inmates who participate in or complete correctional education programs while incarcerated with subsidized health insurance, housing, or tuition after release, (3) expands existing vocational and work furlough programs and establishes earn and learn apprenticeships which allow eligible inmates to work towards licensure under supervised apprenticeships while getting paid, and (4) appropriates funds.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy. We need a democracy that guarantees a more equitable and just society. The mass criminalization and incarceration of especially black and brown communities disenfranchises and disempowers millions of Americans and undermines the promise of a democracy that works for everyone.

Studies of shown that educational programs in prisons have significant benefits. “In 2016, the [RAND Corporation](#) produced a report that showed that individuals who participate in any type of educational program while in prison are 43 percent less likely to return to prison. In addition to reducing recidivism, education can improve outcomes from one generation to the next.” See <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/education-opportunities-prison-key-reducing-crime/> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). “Prisons with college programs have [less violence](#) among incarcerated individuals, which creates a safer environment for both incarcerated individuals and prison staff.” *Id.* “The significant [personal benefits](#) of prison education include increased personal income, lower unemployment, greater political engagement [and](#) volunteerism, and improved [health](#) outcomes.” *Id.*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2433. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran

Wednesday, March , 2022

9:30 AM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2433-EXPANDING PROGRAMS & SUCCESSFUL REENTRY

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and DelaCruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, 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 4,069 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety or the corporate vendor on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,112 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 2433 requires the department to expand programs and incentivizes incarcerated persons to complete correctional education programs while serving their sentences. Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure that focuses people on reintegrating back to their communities. Many people exiting incarceration are concerned about how they are going to make it outside when released. Educational programs, vocational training, and work furlough are strategies for successful reentry. Earn to Learn is about partnerships where people can apprentice in various jobs/trades. People need a route out of prison that will provide them with the tools necessary to support themselves and their families. This bill is a great start!

We urge the committee to pass this bill that will start the paradigm shift from a punitive system to one that actually focuses on rehabilitation and reentry, as intended by the HCR 85 Prison Reform Task Force.

We urge the committees to pass this important measure that expands programs and prepares people to become contributing members of our communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2433

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:33:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Rich	Testifying for Women's prison Project	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday March 2, 2022

TIME: 9:30 AM, Via Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR SB2433 RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAMS

Women's Prison Project **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB2433 RELATING TO OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAMS. Studies have shown that educational programs in prisons reduce recidivism and help reduce violence in prisons. Additionally, they prepare incarcerated individuals for a more successful and productive life on reentry to the community. Incarcerated persons who have participated in and /or completed a course of study while in prison are likely to be more successful in obtaining employment and to be more engaged in their community. Poverty and unemployment put individuals at higher risk for committing crime. Education can provide a pathway to better jobs and higher wages, as well as increasing confidence and self-esteem.

Incentives, which would be funded through this bill, have been shown to increase participation in educational, vocational, and mentorship programs. The reward programs suggested in this bill would encourage participation and completion and make the programs and the individual participants more successful.

Women's Prison Project supports appropriation of funds to enhance and expand educational programs and opportunities for incarcerated individuals, including the peer to peer GED completion program currently being offered in the Women's Community Correctional Center.

Linda Rich

On behalf of Women's Prison Project

SB-2433

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:11:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is why None of the criminals take you serious to begin with. There should be no programs this does not work!!

SB-2433

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 5:41:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mitchell Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR

AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR

AND THE MEMEBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SB 2433 Relating to Offender Reentry Programs

Day and Date: 2/28/2022

Time and Place: 9:30 A.M. Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT

Aloha,

My name is Mitchell Wong and I'm a Master of Social Work student at the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in favor of SB2433 relating to offender reentry programs.

My reason for taking this position on SB2433 is that I've been here, ran a foul with drugs and the judicial system, but was given an opportunity to turn my life around. I believe this is a way members of our community can reintegrate back into society with the help of the judicial system.

Many of those who find themselves in the jail and prison system would like to make change with their lives after having sometime to realize it but, due to multiple factors, are unable to do so. This could be due to a lack of social support once out, having to make life choices which they find themselves back in the system, trying to break the institutionalized lifestyle with little success on their own, and much more. Many of those who find themselves in the system really would wish for a break and have an outlet that supports their positive future endeavors, with people who are trained to work with this population, such as this.

I am in support of SB2433 because I believe that this bill will provide the outlet and support for those in our community who may need the help, for example, substance use, dual diagnosis, homelessness, lack of support systems, and so on. This could be a life changer for those involved, and ultimately, the State of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Mitchell Wong

LATE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Hearing: March 2, 2022

09:30 am via Videoconference

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2433

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Alisha Kaluhiokalani. I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work Program. I am testifying in favor of SB2433. I encourage the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary to adopt this bill with haste and be brought to take effect immediately.

I believe one of the major social issues in the community and even in the country is the trauma that people have experienced, have not been able to address, and the behavior or results that follow. The State of Hawai'i is scarred with historical trauma and colonization. Native Hawaiians have grown up witnessing the injustices done to their people to where their culture of farming, fishing, living off the land, spiritual practices, hula, and even speaking their mother tongue was deemed uncivilized. Being stripped of their land & natural resources, and abruptly thrown into modernization with no escape has brought about confusion and intergenerational trauma causing many to act, live, and deal with it through indulging in substance abuse, violence, and crime, even from a young age.

Some of the major effects of this oppression have brought about homelessness, poverty, health issues, substance abuse, and mass imprisonment. Currently, Native Hawaiians make up less than 25% of the general population, but more than 40% are part of the prison population and 44% of them are Native Hawaiian women. I share this with you because I have been among that population and have dealt with this type of trauma.

As a Native Hawaiian, recovering addict, and being a part of the prison system, it has been a journey of finding out who I am, what my strengths and weaknesses are, and how to make the right choices in life. While incarcerated, I was given the opportunity to take college courses and was even able to work in the education and recreation unit as a Hawaiian culture instructor sharing with the women and some of the mental health patients my knowledge on the culture including history, language, chant, hula, and values. Teaching and helping others became my passion. It also allowed me to practice my culture, reconnect, and heal.

I went to numerous treatment facilities in and out of prison for the past 18 years. It took me to go back to prison to find myself and get grounded. I completed substance abuse treatment, life skills training, self-development classes, college courses, worked a job I enjoyed doing, exercised, including practicing my culture.

A couple years after my release, I decided to go back to college and continue the academic path I started on inside of prison. I attended Windward Community College, pursuing an AA in Hawaiian Studies/Liberal Arts and graduated with honors, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. I

also became a student employee there as a Peer Tutor for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i 101/102, a former Pu'uhonua Program Assistant helping the women at the Women's Community Correctional Center with academic advising and am currently pursuing a bachelor's in Social Work at UH Mānoa.

The loss of land, language, and culture has resulted in significant intergenerational, historical, and political trauma for Native Hawaiians. Individuals suffer poor economic, physiological, cultural, and educational consequences, which frequently shows itself in criminal behavior. Any endeavor to lessen the number of Native Hawaiians who come into touch with the criminal justice system must involve a multifaceted strategy to dealing with this trauma.

There are 2 ways to look at treatment when it comes to rehabilitating a Native Hawaiian. Yes, we do live in a Western world and that approach may be beneficial, but when it comes to Kānaka Maoli, their worldview is different, the Western approach alone isn't enough. I personally understand this concept. To feel complete, you must heal the mind and mend the heart. Think about it this way, Western medicine, or treatment deals with head knowledge by changing the way you think, focusing on cognitive development. Whereas Hawaiian medicine or practices deals with the heart or in a deeper sense, is felt within the na'au (gut). Our na'au is often known as our sixth sense in which Kānaka Maoli are born with, it is the center of our instincts and feelings. Have you ever heard of the saying, "trust your gut?" Yes, same concept. It is that feeling that will guide a Native Hawaiian to do what is pono (right). To strengthen your na'au would be to heal from the hurt that has been done. This is why implementing Native Hawaiian practices into rehabilitation programs or facilities is vital for reformation and healing. Not only that but with the combination of Western and Hawaiian approaches to rehabilitation I feel it is prevalent especially since we live in a modern world. However, we must take heed that it is of utmost importance that we do not deny a Kānaka Maoli the right to practice their culture. Which is why I reiterate: No ka piha pono, pono 'oe e ho'ōla i ka no'ono'o a ho'oponopono i ka na'au -To feel complete, you must heal the mind and mend the heart-

In closing, due to the experiences, challenges, and triumphs I have gone through, it taught me how important it is to give back and is the guiding force of why I chose this path. I know as a social worker, it is my responsibility and aim to positively encourage, empower, and enhance the well-being of my clients. I intend to share my experience, strength, hope, and aloha with everyone in hopes to be a beacon of hope and inspiration to 'onipa'a (be steadfast) and never give up. My story is what ignites my passion and willingness to kōkua everyone who has struggled in life.

Without the programs that was offered while I was incarcerated, I believe I would not of been prepared to live the life that I have today. Therefore, I highly encourage Senate Bill 2433 to be passed because it will create a stronger foundation in the Hawai'i correctional facility programs and will effectively expand the current systems for not only my fellow lāhui, Kānaka Maoli, but for all my brothers and sisters who have been a part of the criminal justice system to live and conduct their lives accordingly in society.

Alisha Kaluhiokalani
Student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Bachelor of Social Work Program
Cell 808-670-5963
Email apk4@hawaii.edu