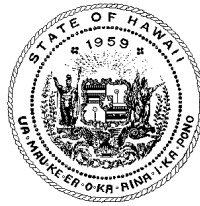


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2532
RELATING TO PRISONS.**

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2532, which establishes a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates.

The Department is a proud recipient of the Second Chance Pell grant via Chaminade University that is in its second semester of providing the first cohort of 14 students at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) with an opportunity to earn an Associate's degree in Business Administration. Under a federal grant, the Windward Community College (WCC) Pu`uhonua Program offers Business 103 and Finance 150 college credits for inmates at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). WCC has recently applied for the Second Chance Pell grant, has passed its first phase of review, and is working to submit its documents for the second/final phase. WCC reported it will be offering a business degree pathway for its students.

CPS has agreements with the Leeward Community College, Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (OCEWD) that includes a financial literacy class available to correctional facilities on Oahu. Through the

Prison Education Project, Business 101 was offered to inmates at the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) via distance-learning, however no college credit was earned.

Since March 2020, the COVID pandemic has impacted post-secondary programs to succeed as the statewide correctional facilities have had to sustain rolling quarantine/isolation lockdowns and staff shortages resulting in program shutdowns. The CPS Education branch provides limited distance-learning options for its inmate population however, the infrastructure of the facilities does place limits on technology and the ability to securely connect with outside institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

February 1, 2022

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

FROM: Ted Sakai, Member, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission

SUBJECT: **SB 2532, Relating to Prisons**

POSITION: Support

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee

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).]

We support the bill due to its intent and implementation will add in the creation of a more effective comprehensive offender re-entry program

Offenders stand a better success rate of recidivism should they be educated before release on the management of personal finances and business opportunities. This would lead to better transitional planning and economic stability. Financial literacy prior to release can be factored with unification with family for better outcomes and support as well.

The transition from the highly structured life in prison to independent life is hard enough. Teaching financial literacy will provide the offender upon release a stabilized foundation of financial management for the success of their transition and their families.

Mark Patterson
Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.
Via Videoconference**

RE: SB 2532 Relating to Prisons

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2532, which establishes within the Department of Public Safety a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates. Appropriates moneys.

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.

Providing education, training, and mentoring for employment once inmates are released from incarceration is proven to reduce recidivism and help that recently released individual from getting back on their feet. 49% of convicted felons return to prison within one year of their release. However, 43% of inmates who seek and attain education in prison are less likely to recidivate.

The Chamber supports this bill that will create a working group to educate inmates on starting a business, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Providing inmates the opportunity to receive an education centered around obtaining employment after being released is a key way to ensuring that the recidivism rate declines.

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, 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.

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
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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 PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2532

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

RELATING TO PRISONS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2532.

S.B. No. 2532 does the following: 1) establish within the Department of Public Safety a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business and financial literacy education, training and mentorship to inmates; and 2) appropriates \$400,000 in general funds for FY 23 to implement this pilot program. Similar programs are implemented in other states and jurisdictions, such as in Virginia and District Columbia through the collaboration of various business schools and correctional centers. This bill is intended to reduce inmate costs and afford opportunities for the inmates to succeed after their release from incarceration.

B&F notes that 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.



SB2532 Business Training for Offenders

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

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

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2532:

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.

Recommendation: A business education group would be best served if tailored to offenders according to a risk and assessment needs for behavioral health to determine different approaches based on level of severity for substance use disorders, mental health disorders and criminality.

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.

The approach for mild is much different than the approach for chronic conditions.

- Moreover, research is clear that high risk offenders need to be separated from low risk offenders in service activities, at least to start until established progress is made.

HSAC recommends that offenders need nationally standardized risk levels tools as well as screening and assessment tools before grouping offenders into various groups.

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

SB-2532

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:18:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-2532

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:48:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

Stand in support.