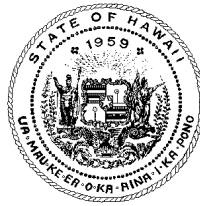


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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 2637
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.**

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:

Senate Bill (SB) 2637 seeks to mandate that there be a community-based work furlough program for all incarcerated women in the State and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding for this purpose. The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers the following comments regarding this well-intentioned measure.

PSD wishes to clarify that work furlough programs are available to sentenced felons, not sentenced petty misdemeanants, as the terms of incarceration of the latter range from 30 days up to 1 year of incarceration, too short a period in which to conduct a meaningful work furlough program and therefore, inappropriate for the short-term transient female population.

At present, PSD provides work furlough programs at all jail facilities statewide (HCCC, KCCC, OCCC, MCCC, and WCCC). Although these programs have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department will reopen the programs as soon as the coronavirus has been demonstrably reduced over a sustained period and it is safe to do so. Because

of the extended duration of the pandemic, PSD has sought to expand extended furlough programs at these facilities for both male and female inmates, which has shown to benefit these offenders. This expansion will continue even after the work furlough programs are reopened.

In addition, the Department presently contracts with the YWCA of Oahu to provide a work furlough at Fernhurst, primarily serving WCCC, and the Women in Need contracted program, serves extended furloughees plus an additional program that offers related services to women offenders.

The Department also notes that any expansion in current programs and/or new initiatives will require additional funding. The highly beneficial work furlough and extended furlough programs require considerable resources, especially when PSD will be tailoring work furlough to more specifically address the needs of female offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity submit testimony on SB 2637.

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

Tuesday, February 2, 2022

1:00 PM

SB 2637 - SUPPORT STATEWIDE WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite 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 4,103 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 1,113 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure for statewide work furlough programs for women. The system is normed to medium security, violent males, so their numbers (3,679) are far greater and males get more attention than incarcerated women (424). The department’s January 17, 2022 population report showed that women represented about 8% of the total incarcerated population (4,103).

We know that many of the women are mothers, therefore, helping them develop work skills to facilitate their reentry is a win-win situation for themselves, their families, and the community!

We urge the committee to pass this measure onto WAM with a recommendation for appropriate funding.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

“When women support each other, incredible things happen.”



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

February 1, 2022

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

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2637, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

POSITION: STRONG 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).]

The Commission strongly supports SB 2637, which would require community-based work furlough programs for incarcerated women in Hawaii. 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 located in the communities into which the inmates will return. In these settings programs can provide navigational supports as the inmate adjusts to the demands of life in the community; and much needed emotional support.

Very frequently, such services are best provided by non-profit agencies whose focus is on assisting inmates within their communities. Hawaii has a rich history of such services. They include the Fernhurst YWCA in Honolulu; the Maui Best program on Maui, and the Going Home Consortium on Hawaii Island. These agencies have been a critical part of the correctional system "infrastructure" for years. For example, the

Fernhurst program and its predecessors have provided services since the 1970s. They have struggled, and often they are underutilized. But they remain resilient because they are dedicated to their mission and many in the communities recognize their value.

SB 2637 will be an important step toward ensuring that this network of community-based services can not only survive, but perhaps thrive. They will play a central role as Hawaii moves to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model of corrections. We urge you to pass this bill.

Mark Patterson
Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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. 2637

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

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2637.

S.B. No. 2637 amends Section 353-6.5, HRS, by mandating a community-based work furlough program for all incarcerated women in the State; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the Department of Public Safety for FY 23 to ensure the continuation of community-based work furlough for women and its expansion to all incarcerated women. This bill intends to ease family reunification efforts and provide for gender-responsive, community-based programs for the eventual integration of incarcerated women back into the communities.

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.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB2637 Work Furlough Program WCCC

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 SB2637:

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.

HSAC supports a women's work furlough programming that establishes community-based work programs and wrap-around support services for women returning to the community after incarceration.

As substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders treatment providers (treatment is residential and outpatient that addresses criminality too) as well as agencies who provide recovery-oriented services such as harm reduction, outreach, and case management, we stand ready to assist as best we can.

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

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

1:00 PM

Via Video Conference

in consideration of
SB 2637**RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.**Chairs NISHIHARA, Vice Chair DeCOITE, and Members of the
Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2637, which mandates that there be a community-based work furlough program for all incarcerated women in the State and 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.

Community-based work furlough programs provide benefits for incarcerated women. Studies show that “Offenders who worked for private companies while imprisoned obtained employment more quickly, maintained employment longer, and had lower recidivism rates than those who worked in traditional correctional industries or were involved in ‘other-than-work’ (OTW) activities.” See <https://web.connectnetwork.com/prison-work-programs/> (retrieved Jan. 31, 2022). Community-based work furlough programs also provide:

- preparation for handling responsibility outside of the correctional facility
- practical and functional life skills-training
- general technical skills knowledge

Id.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2637. If you have questions for me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-2637

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 4:08:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is time we ensure all our siblings imprisoned in Hawaii have access to work furlough programs.

Please support SB2637

SB-2637

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:36:00 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-2637

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:48:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee. My name is Carolyn Eaton and I support this bill. How lucky we are to have this program of Huikahi Circles rooted among our incarcerated women. Seize the opportunity to support and further the Circles at Hawai'i's Women's Community Correctional Center. The evidence shows they promote healing and reduce recidivism.

SB-2637

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:56:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

From: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Dear Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please support this community-based work furlough program for all incarcerated women in the State and appropriate the necessary funds.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

SB-2637

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:46:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which would provide work furloughs or female prisoners. At times it has seemed that DPS puts even less emphasis on providing services for women than for men. I believe the legislature has previously passed a bill encouraging DPS to provide work furloughs for women, but has resulted in no increase, and at times threats of decrease, in opportunities. It is important for the legislature to insist that such opportunities be provided, since simply encouraging DPS has had too little result. I encourage you to pass this bill and to fund it.

SB-2637

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:52:44 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 2637 which mandates and appropriates funds for a community-based work furlough program for all incarcerated women in the State.

Community-based work furlough programs have been shown to reduce recidivism and facilitate successful reentry upon release from prison. Programs that reduce recidivism and enable successful reintegration into the community are a major way to reduce costs to taxpayers and ensure greater public safety.

Mahalo for your support of SB 2637.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

SB-2637

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:47:53 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.