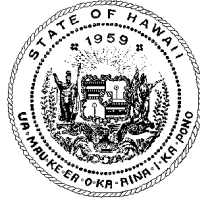


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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2639, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 22, 2022; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325 & Via Videoconference

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill (SB) 2639, House Draft (HD) 1 seeks to require the Department of Public Safety's (PSD) Offender Reentry Office to develop and implement a risk assessment tool specifically intended to assess the needs of female offenders and to provide a report to the Legislature regarding this matter.

The PSD supports the intent of this measure and offers the following information on initiatives currently underway as affirmation of that support. In recognition of the importance of addressing the specific needs of female offenders, PSD has completed the redescription of a Corrections Program Specialist II position assigned to the Reentry Coordination Office (RCO) to be dedicated to work on the assessment, program, treatment, and reentry needs of female offenders.

Part of the CPS II's responsibilities will be to review nationally well-regarded offender assessment instruments, including conducting research with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), American Correctional Association

Testimony on SB 2639, HD 1
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(ACA), and other entities to assist in determining the effectiveness of the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) assessment instrument currently in use and to review other instruments to determine if more accurate and effective instruments specifically for female offenders may be available.

PSD has already made substantial progress towards accomplishing the purposes of SB 2639, HD1 and respectfully suggests that the measure may not be necessary. The Department will be certain to include ongoing progress reports as a part of its Annual Report to the Legislature, to include key performance indicators, as required under HRS 353G.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2639, HD 1.



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

LATE

**SB2639, HD1
RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Malaki 22, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike / Lumi 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2639, HD1, Relating to The Comprehensive Offender Reentry System, which requires the Offender Reentry Office of the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a risk needs assessment tool that is specifically intended to assess the needs of female offenders.

In 2018, a Task Force on Prison Reform established by House Concurrent Resolution 85 found that in Hawai‘i, incarcerated women tend to be Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, undereducated, and non-violent. Over 75% are mothers with children and they are, on the whole, resilient, resourceful, and motivated to succeed and return to their children and families.¹

The HCR85 Task Force recommended to the Legislature that Hawai‘i should recognize the behavioral and social differences between female and male offenders and adopt gender-responsive policies, programs, and practices, particularly with respect to trauma-informed care, developing healthy relationships, and providing holistic support for women. Further, programs should address the areas that served as pathways to incarceration while offering opportunities for success in the community.²

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2639, HD1 because it addresses the unique needs and solutions for women who are involved in the justice system. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ Task Force on Prison Reform, House Concurrent Resolution 85. Final Report to the Hawaii Legislature 2019 Regular Session: Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities. December 2018.
https://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/HCR-85-Task-Force-on-Prison-Reform_Final-Report_12.28.18.pdf

² Task Force on Prison Reform, House Concurrent Resolution 85. Final Report. December 2018.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB2639 HD1 Risk Assessment WCCC for Offender Reentry CMV

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Mar 2 2022: 2:00 am : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2639 HD1:

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 believes it is a **great idea to develop and implement risk needs assessment tools** to properly place offenders in programs and services including a risk needs assessment tool that is specifically intended to assess the needs of female offenders;

HSAC supports and recommends adding nationally standardized treatment screening and assessments to guide the development of reentry plans that would

- **include various levels of treatment for chronic substance use disorder utilizing residential and outpatient and**
- **that address criminality issues,**
- **as well as co-occurring mental health.**

If there is not a chronic issue of substance abuse:

- the assessment would recommend recovery-oriented services such as medication management and case management.

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

TIME: 2:00 PM, Via Videoconference

LOCATION: Conference Room 325

SUPPORT FOR SB2639, HD1 RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM

My name is Linda Rich. I am testifying today on behalf of the Women's Prison Project in **Strong Support** of SB 2639, HD1 RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAM.

SB2639 mandates that the Department of Public Safety's Offender Reentry Office develop and implement a gender-responsive risk and needs assessment tool for use in transition planning for women reentering the community from incarceration.

Research over many years and in many states has identified women's pathways to crime, which are often quite different than those of men. These pathways to crime are not adequately identified by risk and needs assessment tools validated with male populations. Fortunately, there have already been a number of well researched and validated women's risk and needs assessment tools developed that are being used in other states which could be considered for use in Hawaii.

Women's pathways to incarceration, according to the Hawaii Judiciary's Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI), are often related to social and economic marginalization and include poverty, lack of education, lack of access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, histories of trauma including childhood abuse and domestic violence, parenting stress, and lack of access to safe and affordable housing.

Property and drug related crimes, the majority of women's offenses, are often linked to poverty, dysfunctional relationships, and survival. These same factors are barriers to women's successful reentry and non-recidivism.

A 2018 study of women transitioning out of the Women's Community Correctional Center showed a recidivism rate of 51.3 percent, according to the Hawaii CJRI. We should not accept that high a rate as inevitable.

CJRI's review of women's pathways to crime suggest that recidivism could be reduced and the lives of women and their families within our communities greatly enhanced by

utilizing a validated risk and needs assessment tool that would align assessment with women's pathway research to more accurately assess risk and identify women's needs and strengths.

The Women's Prison Project strongly supports SB2639, HD1 because an accurate , gender responsive assessment is critical for an effective transition plan that would reduce recidivism and result in healthier families and safer communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for considering our thoughts on this important issue.

Linda Rich

On behalf of the Women's Prison Project

SB-2639-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 3:23:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support