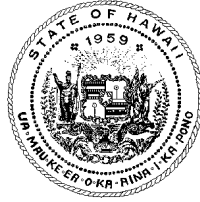


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
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MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

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Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2639
RELATING TO THE COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY SYSTEM.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill (SB) 2639, 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.

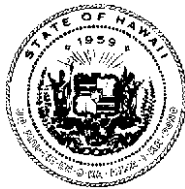
The PSD supports the intent of this measure and offers the following information on initiatives currently underway as its affirmation of that support. In recognition of the importance of addressing the specific needs of female offenders, PSD has completed the redescription of a Corrections Program Specialist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

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

Testimony on Senate Bill 2639
House Committee on Corrections,
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PSD has already made substantial progress towards accomplishing the purposes of SB 2639 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

March 16, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Committee on Corrections, Military, & Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2639 Relating to the comprehensive Offender Reentry
System**

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission supports Senate Bill 2639, Relating to the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System, which amends Section 353H-2.5, HRS, to require a risk/needs assessment specifically intended to assess the needs of female offenders returning to the community.

Criminal justice policies, practices and programs have traditionally been designed for men and applied to women without regard to the unique needs of women. Gender responsive risk/needs assessment tools better identify interventions which connect women to programs and treatment to address their needs and reduce the incidence of recidivism.

It has long been established that women's pathways to crime differ significantly from those of men, too often beginning in childhood physical and sexual abuse. Women are far more likely than men to commit crimes related to poverty (prostitution, credit card fraud) and substance abuse (drug-related offenses). Dysfunctional relationships lead to a lack of self-worth and any sense of control over their own lives and contribute to the high rates of depression among women offenders. As women are the primary caretakers of children, parental issues present unique challenges for impoverished women. Gender responses programs and treatments best address the needs of women.

We urge you to pass this measure to ensure proper interventions are identified and designed to assist the successful

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair
Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 16 2022
TIME: 10:00 AM, Via Videoconference

Women's Prison Project is in **Strong Support** of SB2639: 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. We would note that there are several well researched risk/need assessments already available and in use in other states. We suggest that The Department of Public Safety review and consider these, which would relieve them of the task of developing a gender responsive assessment and would speed up implementation.

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. 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. These same factors are barriers to women's successful reentry and non-recidivism.

Property and drug related crimes, the majority of women's offenses, are often linked to poverty, dysfunctional relationships, and survival.

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. Its 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 gender responsive 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 because an accurate 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



SB2639 Risk Assessment WCCC for Offender Reentry CMV

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair

Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 16 2022: 10:00 am : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2639:

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.

SB-2639

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 4:13:17 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support.