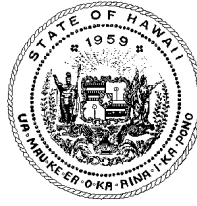


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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 2640, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO INCARCERATED WOMEN.**

by  
Max N. Otani, Director

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

March 16, 2022; 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 2640, Senate Draft (SD) 2, which appropriates an unspecified amount of funding for the second year of a pilot program to train incarcerated women at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) to be general education development tutors for their peers and support for college correspondence courses for the inmate tutors.

The Department supports the intent of this measure and respectfully offers the following comments. A total of five (5) G.E.D. tutors were successfully trained and certified in the first year utilizing Funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief grant (GEER), provided through the Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice. As of January 2022, a total of nine (9) women at WCCC earned their G.E.D. diplomas, and of the nine graduates, six (6) went on to enroll in post-secondary programs for college credit. Although the numbers may be modest, the program's success is great.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting the intent of SB 2640, SD 2.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

By  
Debora J. Halbert  
Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 2640 SD2 – RELATING TO INCARCERATED WOMEN

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2640 SD2, relating to the appropriation of funds for the second year of a program to train incarcerated women to be general education development tutors for their peers, provide college correspondence courses for women in the women's community correctional center, and provide reentry and transition services for women wanting to continue their education post incarceration.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 2640 SD2 and upholds the value of the current program but defers to the Department of Public Safety. This bill appropriates additional funds for the Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice to support their efforts to continue to provide for the second year of their education program for imprisoned women.

The UH supports the program and its intent. Windward Community College (Windward CC) has taken the primary lead on this initiative and is partnering with Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice in this educational effort. Once these women have completed their GED, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice has helped facilitate planning for Windward CC to partner with University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Social Sciences to support students in their transition to the baccalaureate degree program.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 2640 SD2.

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2640, S.D. 2

**March 16, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 430 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO INCARCERATED WOMEN

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2640, S.D. 2, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds as second-year funding to the Department of Public Safety (PSD) for FY 23 for the education program for imprisoned women, a program to train incarcerated women to be general education development tutors for their peers, provide college correspondence courses for women in the Women's Community Correctional Center, and provide reentry and transition services for women who wish to continue their education post incarceration. The bill also indicates that PSD may transfer the appropriated funds to the University of Hawaii or the Department of Education or award a grant to a private entity to achieve the intended purposes of the bill.

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.



Hawai'i

Committees: Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Via Videoconference  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 2640 S.D. 2 Relating to Incarcerated Women

Dear Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of S.B. 2640 S.D. 2**. This bill appropriates funding for the second year of a program to provide training to incarcerated women to be general education tutors for their peers, provide college correspondence courses for women in the women's community correctional center, and provide reentry and transition services for women wanting to continue their education post incarceration.

The ACLU of Hawai'i is committed to transforming Hawaii's criminal legal system and building a new vision of safety and justice. First and foremost, we advocate for decarceration strategies to reduce the number of people in our jails and prisons and shifting spending priorities away from mass criminalization and incarceration that disparately impacts Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Blacks, and low-income people - towards health care, housing, education and human services within communities.

Simultaneously, we advocate for humane conditions of confinement, meaningful rehabilitation opportunities, and comprehensive re-entry support services that starts from the first day of incarceration. This includes education and higher education.

Education in correctional settings is a cost-effective way to reduce crime and leads to a long term benefits across the entire population for a myriad of reasons:

- The Rand Corporation issued a 2016 report that showed that individuals who participate in any type of educational program while in prison are 43% less likely to return to prison.
- Prisons with college programs have less violence among incarcerated people. In turn, this creates a safer environment for both incarcerated people and jail and prison staff.
- Children with parents with college degrees are more likely to complete college. This enhanced social mobility for families, and helps to break cycles of incarceration.

- People with criminal records experience many barriers to obtaining employment with livable wages. On average, formerly incarcerated people earn 11% less than those with no criminal record doing the same job. They are also 15-30% less likely to find a job in the first place. Earning a high school and college diploma increased employment and other life opportunities.
- Education empowers people by restoring their self-esteem and giving them a voice.

In closing, we ask for your support of **SB2640 S.D. 2** which helps women to prepare for their successful transition home through education and peer mentoring opportunities. Please invest in education, not building new and expanded jails and prisons.

Sincerely,

*Carrie Ann Shirota*

Carrie Ann Shirota  
Policy Director  
ACLU of Hawai‘i

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai‘i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving Hawai‘i for over 50 years.*

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i  
P.O. Box 3410 Honolulu,  
Hawai‘i 96801T: 808.522.5900  
F: 808.522.5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair

Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

10:00 AM

### **STRONG SUPPORT - SB 2640 SD2 - PEER TUTORS AT WCCC**

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden 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 HD1 of the more than 4,008 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars<sup>1</sup> under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,110 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 appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of this educational program for women at WCCC where they are trained as peer tutors in general education. This is wonderful! Since the program started the number of women who got their GEDs has increased dramatically. This is so important, especially since most of the women are mothers.

Providing college courses - which, in our humble opinion, should be a partnership with Hawai'i universities and our Community College system - is vital. Twenty years ago, CAP participated in a survey at WCCC asking the women 3 questions: 1) what are the most helpful things during your incarceration, 2) what were the least helpful things of your incarceration, and 3) if you were the Director what would you change. The majority of the responses asked for college courses. The women know they need education in order to earn enough to support themselves and their families, therefore, providing reentry and transition services for women wanting to further their education post release is crucial.

Education is the route out of poverty, an economic mobility booster, and increases the tax base! We respectfully ask the committee to please support this important measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 7, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-97.pdf>



## **SB2640 SD2 Women's Prison Education Project**

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 SB2640 SD2:**

*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.*

Education for women incarcerated and going through a reentry process back into their community has **multiple benefits**:

1. Provides skills to develop their potential, helps with employment, instills confidence, develops ethics, and improves their well-being.
2. Improves relations with PSD and parole staff members.
3. Dramatically enhances self-esteem.<sup>1</sup>
4. Reentry education has many positive effects on the children of reentry women.

Moreover, it is a highly cost-effective investment.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Northwestern University Prison Education Program 2022 <https://sites.northwestern.edu/npep/benefits-of-prison-education/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CInside%E2%80%9D%20Benefits&text=Prison%20education%20also%20breaks%20down,the%20prisoners'%20self%2Desteem.>



COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Honorable Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

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

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2640 SD2 RELATING TO INCARCERATED WOMEN**

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ) strongly supports this measure appropriating \$250,000 to continue the second year of a pilot program for higher and continuing education at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). The first year was funded with a [2021 GEER grant](#). The program is a collaborative effort between Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ), the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), Windward Community College (WCC), College of Social Sciences University of Hawai'i (UH), and McKinley Community School for Adults (MCSA).

"As Horace Mann once said, education is 'the great equalizer,' but this only works if the most vulnerable individuals have access to it" ([Bender, 2018](#)). Incarcerated people in Hawai'i read at an average 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade level [according to the state](#) and our experience working at WCCC shows many average less especially in math. Almost 60% of the women at WCCC are high school dropouts. These numbers alone show we suffer from systemic problems that begin with school failures and using "zero tolerance" for school discipline that results in [the school to prison pipeline](#).

The outcomes of this GED peer tutoring program after just 12 weeks of its application show its remarkable value for helping women continue their education. The program trains imprisoned women who have at least a high school education to become tutors for their peers studying for the GED. Since the program began in earnest in November 2021, two cohorts of peer tutors (10 women total) have completed a 20-hour training program in cooperative education, which taught them how to engage students in hands on learning. The second tutor cohort completed their training last week. The tutors are paid, and financial incentives are offered for women to complete the GED. To study for the GED with a poor academic history is especially challenging. The women studying for the GED in this program were educationally assessed before they entered

the program, and most only test at the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>h</sup> grade level. With the encouragement of their peer tutors they begin to see themselves as capable of passing the test. About 30 women enrolled in the program who worked for innumerable hours studying for the test (one dropped out for personal reasons but came back and is working on passing the GED currently). While the incentives helped get the women into the classroom to begin studying, it was the tutors' persistence, and consistently applied academic assistance and inspiration, that helps the women learn the material to pass the GED.

The success of the program to date far exceeds its initial expectations. Since 2016 an average rate of only three (3) women a year took and passed the GED at WCCC. In this program, within only 12 weeks, eleven (11) women passed the GED and 11 more women only need to pass one to three more sections of the GED to pass completely. Lately, we have experienced tutoring and testing delays due to covid and new prison management at WCCC or the results would be even better.

Higher education supported by this program includes providing college correspondence courses for women who have high school educations or passed the GED. Also keeping Windward Community College at WCCC is part of the program along with reentry assistance to support the women in continuing their education when they are released from prison.

The research is clear that higher and continuing [education reduces repeat crime](#). An academic paper on the program has been submitted for publication about the power of cooperative and peace education. We can share the draft of this paper with you if you are interested.

We must provide education for those in our correctional institutions who literally fell through the cracks in our education system.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's support please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at [lorenn@hawaii.edu](mailto:lorenn@hawaii.edu) or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Honorable Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

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

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2640 SD2 RELATING TO INCARCERATED WOMEN**

The Women’s Prison Project (WPP) strongly supports this measure appropriating \$250,000 to continue the second year of a pilot program for higher and continuing education at the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC). The first year was funded with a [2021 GEER grant](#). The program is a collaborative effort between Hawai’i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ), the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC), Windward Community College (WCC), College of Social Sciences University of Hawai’i (UH), and McKinley Community School for Adults (MCSA).

“As Horace Mann once said, education is ‘the great equalizer,’ but this only works if the most vulnerable individuals have access to it” ([Bender, 2018](#)). Incarcerated people in Hawai’i read at an average 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade level [according to the state](#) and our experience working at WCCC shows many average less especially in math. Almost 60% of the women at WCCC are high school dropouts. These numbers alone show we suffer from systemic problems that begin with school failures and using “zero tolerance” for school discipline that results in [the school to prison pipeline](#).

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their peer tutors they begin to see themselves as capable of passing the test. About 30 women enrolled in the program who worked for innumerable hours studying for the test (one dropped out for personal reasons but came back and is working on passing the GED currently). While the incentives helped get the women into the classroom to begin studying, it was the tutors' persistence, and consistently applied academic assistance and inspiration, that helps the women learn the material to pass the GED.

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The research is clear that higher and continuing [education reduces repeat crime](#). An academic paper on the program has been submitted for publication about the power of cooperative and peace education. We can share the draft of this paper with you if you are interested.

We must provide education for those in our correctional institutions who literally fell through the cracks in our education system. We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about WPP's support please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at [lorenn@hawaii.edu](mailto:lorenn@hawaii.edu) or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 4:12:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

Stand in Support.

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 5:21:25 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I support, urge you to support this bill. Mahalo for your work and discernment in changing Hawaii's correctional system for the better. Our entire community will benefit.

SB-2640

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 03:30:46 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Janice Cockett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Janice Cockett. I am a resident of Honolulu and a current Doctoral student in Social Welfare within the University of Hawaii system. I strongly support SB2640 and urge everyone to do so as well. During my preparation for my Specialization Plan I was privileged to do my Teaching Practicum with Lorenn Walker of HFRJ at the inception of this dynamic and amazing GED intervention at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).

This effort was made possible through a 2021 GEER Grant a collaborative effort between HFRJ, the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), Windward Community College (WCC), College of Social Sciences University of Hawai'i (UH), and McKinley Community School for Adults (MCSA). We are at a very critical juncture. It is vital that funding for this important work continues into subsequent years.

There is extensive literature and research that supports a direct correlation between education and recidivism rates. More critically for female offenders who enter and leave prison, they face every collateral consequence imaginable.

The numbers are ridiculous and cannot be ignored. Between the 36 months of 2018 and 2020, approximately 5-6 women graduated with their GED at WCCC. That's approximately a 16.6% rate of completion. Once the WCCC Pilot Program graduated Cohort I, the first 6 inmate tutors; these women with their newly learned skills, tutored 11 women successfully through their GED competency examination (between the months of October 2021 and February 2022). This is a 220% increase in the rate of successful GED completion since the bleak 2018-2020 period.

These 11 graduates can now aspire to a higher calling with college education being offered at Women's. These are women that will bridge the gap between the gates of incarceration and our community with tools for improved socioeconomic status.

Rather than taxpayers paying anywhere from \$50k - \$80k a year for one inmate, including those who recidivate, clearly its money better spent to release educated mothers, daughters, sisters, granddaughters etc. armed with the basic but necessary tools and confidence for success.

Respectfully,

Janice Cockett

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:17:10 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SB2640 SD2 Description**

Appropriates moneys for the second year of the program that trains incarcerated women to be general education development tutors for their peers, provides college correspondence courses for women in the Women's Community Correctional Center, and provides reentry and transition services for women wanting to continue their education post-incarceration. Authorizes partnerships between the Department of Education, University of Hawaii, and Department of Public Safety. Appropriates moneys.

Acquiring an education is one of the most powerful predictors of successful reentry into society for incarcerated individuals upon release from prison. The WCCC general education development tutor training program helps broaden students' horizons and gives them a glimpse of what might be possible in their lives. It provides hope, a means to economic mobility, and teaches self-discipline, organization, and responsibility. The tutors teach their peers and show by their example a motivated and active learner. They have helped form a learning community in which every student is encouraged and nurtured to succeed. The second year of the education program will produce even more GED graduates and many students who will go on to pursue a higher education. The program, initiated and developed by the Hawaii Friends for Restorative Justice, should be the gold standard for successful reentry educational programs throughout the state.

Please pass SB2640 SD2.



**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:23:31 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2640 and ask CMV members to do the same.

Thank you.

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 3:32:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Flash Tael	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit my testimony, as a private citizen, in support of SB2640. I have firsthand knowledge of the tremendous success of the education program (provided by the Hawaii Friends for Restorative Justice) at the Womens Community Correctional Center.

I have had the privilege of serving the participating women since the program was officially launched in September 2021. These women were (and still are) highly motivated to pursue their dreams and goals of higher education. All of this motivation is almost entirely due to the education program.

In such a short period of time—11 women passed their GED exams. There is so much excitement and positive feedback from all the women involved in the program and from those who are indirectly involved with the program. Quite frankly and from what I have witnessed—this program needs to continue.

I will also share some of the feedback shared by the program’s GED tutors and students:

**GED Tutor “M.C.”:** "The program encourages students to continue with their education, and it gives them hope. It gives them an opportunity to accomplish a dream they always wanted to achieve. I’m part of the GED tutor team that is strong and consistent. We don’t judge; but we encourage everyone to keep on going. Mahalo for having this program to keep us going in a productive way."

**GED Tutor “T.O.”:** “Since this program began, 11 students have already received their GEDs within a matter of months. Prior to this program there was a 2 year gap of any GEDs at all. A program such as this is exactly what this facility needs, and all facilities for that matter in my opinion. I am grateful to be a part of something so wholesome and good within the walls of a place that can feel so dark at times”.

The following are statements shared by GED students who all aspire to pass their GED exam and to become a GED tutor:

**GED Student B.K.:** “The tutors and the program are very helpful. Before this program, I never learned anything in 3 years. With the new program I’ve gotten half way through the GED in only 1 month! I have 1 more test before I get my GED and it’s because of the tutors and this program. The tutors are also really patient and consistent.”

**GED Student J.G.:** “The program has taught me how to breakdown and put together math problems. It also helped me build my self-confidence, motivation and responsibilities within myself to thrive for better in my life and to obtain my GED so that when I go out into society I can go to work.”

**GED Student M.G.:** “The program has really helped me come a long way in my learning. I enjoy coming to classes and sitting in sessions with tutors to better understand math, science, social studies and language arts. Since starting this program, I’ve managed to pass all my GED exams with only one more, math, to pass to get my GED diploma. I am also having fun learning and being part of the program.”

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:17:09 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: House of Representatives, The Thirty-First Legislature Regular Session Of 2022

Committee On Corrections, Military, & Veterans

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: SB (In Support)

Dear Chair Ohno Vice-Chair, Ganaden, and Members of the Committee,

Please support this bill. We have a lot of work to do to improve our criminal justice system.

Passing this Women's Prison Project bill is an important step towards this goal.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

(Oahu Resident for 29 years)

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:45:41 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jasmine Slovak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans  
Hearing March 16, 2022, 10:00 AM HST

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo nui to Chair OHNO, Vice-Chair GANADEN, and members of the House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans for holding this hearing on SB2640 SD2.

My name is Jasmine Slovak; I am an O'ahu resident. I write in favor of SB2640 SD2.

E mālama pono,

Jasmine Slovak

**SB-2640-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:27:11 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lilinoe Kauahikaua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: