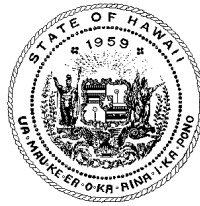


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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 2774  
RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER.**

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) 2774, which provides funding to further expand huikahi restorative circles as part of the reentry planning process at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).

The success of these circles has allowed inmates to reconnect and reconcile with their families prior to release and to further develop their support system in the community.

As with other programs and services, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted this program, and WCCC has not been able to schedule these circles on a consistent basis. One restorative circle was conducted in the Fall of 2021.

The Department believes that this process would be even more effective as a jail-diversion option for individuals in the community, such as, probation violators.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

# 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 PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2022

1:00 PM

### **SB 2774 - STRONG SUPPORT FOR HUIKAHI RESTORATIVE CIRCLES**

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.

SB 2774 appropriates funds to support the Huikahi Restorative Circles that have been operating since 2005. Although they are part of Hawai'i's Reentry law - 353H, HRS - they currently are operating only at the Women's Community Correctional Center. This program has brought families, friends, and employers together for a healing and solution-focused gathering where everyone in the circle becomes part of that person's successful transition back to the community. It is truly a community process!

Please support this wonderful program that restores hope, builds relationships, and reunites families and friends. Mahalo for hearing this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

*I have a dream that we won't have to talk about 'restorative justice' because it will be understood that true justice is about restoration, and about transformation.*

*I have a dream.*

*Howard Zehr*

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, February 1, 2022

TIME: 1:00 PM, Via Videoconference

**SUPPORT FOR SB2744 RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL  
CENTER (WCCC)**

The Women's Prison Project (WPP) strongly supports this measure appropriating \$200,000 to provide the [reentry planning process, known as huikahi circles](#), for women incarcerated at WCCC. Reentry planning by individual incarcerated people is vital for their successful return to the community and their desisting from crime ([Taxman, 2004](#)). Huikahi circles are for incarcerated people who take responsibility for their behavior and want to make amends with harmed loved ones and the community—and who want to plan for their transition back into the community. The process was first piloted in 2005 at Waiawa Correctional Facility. It has been provided at several state prisons, but mainly at WCCC. The circles have been provided *pro bono* and with private grants to the state prisons. Except for the state's federal [2021 GEER grant](#), the state has never funded the process for adults. Since 2015, a US District Court for Hawai'i [specialty court pilot](#) has funded the process for pre-sentenced and sentenced defendants. Agencies in other states and countries have replicated it. The process has been [extensively researched](#). It is [healing for children](#) of incarcerated parents [and other loved ones](#). An [independent evaluation](#) of the process shows it reduces recidivism. Another study shows it can help decrease Hawai'i's prison population. 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-2774**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:32:36 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Yes

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 within Hawai'i's Women's Community Correctional Center. The evidence shows they promote healing and reduce recidivism, our fervently desired outcomes for every incarcerated individual and family.

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  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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. 2774

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

RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2774.

S.B. No. 2774 appropriates \$200,000 in general funds for FY 23 for the Women's Community Correctional Center to further expand reentry planning circles, also known as "huikahi" circles, which are a part of a reentry planning process shown to decrease recidivism.

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.



**SB2774 Huikahi Circles (Restorative Circles) for Offender Reentry**  
**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 SB2774:**

*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 the Hawaii version of Restorative Circles that is a group process with offenders, victims, family and friends and is now evidenced-based practices:

- It has been growing in its use as part of offender reentry processes.
- The group processes is self-directed, goal-oriented, and an active learning experience for participants.
- It promotes positive motivation to repair harm and to take responsibility for their futures.
- Besides decreasing recidivism, the Huikahi Circle provides healing for people harmed.

This engaging process is important because it involves the public to help with recidivism and reentry back into their communities.

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

**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 6:55:53 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members,

The huikahi program has shown great promise in breaking the cycle of recidivism among our incarcerated women. Please move this bill forward.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed Life-time Feminist in Mililani



**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 4:17:20 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Huikahi Restorative Circles at WCCC have been very successful in reducing recidivism and have promoted healing for families and loved ones. Please support SB2774 and fund this program.

**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:50:48 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:15:56 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support continued funding for *Huikahi Restorative Circles at WCCC*. They have been making a positive impact since 2005, reducing recidivism and promoting healing.

*Thank you,*

*Wendy-Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN*

*Kailua*

**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:50:11 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Restorative Justice circles have shown that they help family healing and help prevent recidivism. It is important that women who are incarcerated have the opportunity to participate in them. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:29:09 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 2774 which makes an appropriation to further the practice of huikahi restorative circles at the Women's Community Correctional Center.

Restorative circles allow incarcerated individuals to understand the impact of their offense, try to mend relationships, and commit to improving their lives. It also provides an opportunity for victims to gain a sense of closure and support. Those close to the offender are also a part of the restorative circle and so a supportive network is established that addresses the needs of all concerned and, upon release, will assist the individual in reentering society.

Restorative circles facilitate successful reentry into society and, accordingly, help reduce recidivism. This is a cost-effective way to reduce recidivism and reduce costs to taxpayers and at the same time increase public safety.

Mahalo for your support of SB 2774.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

**SB-2774**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:45:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

Stand in support.