



Committees: Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 2 P.M.
Place: Via Videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 3294 S.D. 2 H. D. 1 Relating to Reentry Planning Circles

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of S.B. 3294 S.D. 2 H.D. 1**. This bill appropriates funding for reentry planning circles for women who are incarcerated.

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. In turn, this shifts 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, and comprehensive re-entry support services that starts from the first day of incarceration. ***This includes Restorative Justice practices and reentry planning circles that help people to successfully transition home – while holding space for healing and restoration of relationships.***

In closing, we ask for your support of **SB 3294 S.D. 2 H.D. 1** which helps women to prepare for their successful transition home.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shiota

Carrie Ann Shiota
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.

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SB-3294-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 3:20:01 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

SB-3294-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:29:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: SB3294 (In Support)

Dear Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Wendy Gibson-Viviani, an RN who has lived and worked on Oahu for 29 years. I am writing in SUPPORT OF SB3294.

I strongly support providing funding for reentry planning circles for incarcerated women in Hawaii. I believe this is a good decarceration strategy, in that, it may help reduce recidivism and provide some healing.

This legislation 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.”

I believe this promotes community safety by facilitating the adjustment from the highly structured prison setting to independent living.

Please help provide this important program by supporting SB3294.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

SB-3294-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:58:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3294 SD2 HD1 appropriates funds for reentry planning circles for incarcerated women.

Preparation for release should always include making a detailed plan of action. When family members, friends, and supportive officials, employers, teachers, etc., are involved, the chances of success are the best. The views of all stakeholders are aired, relationships are mended, and all participants focus on mapping out a successful reentry process for the individual.

Making a reentry plan is the key to successful reintegration into society. It is a cost-effective way to reduce recidivism and reduce costs to taxpayers while at the same time increase public safety. It will be money well spent.

Mahalo for your support of SB 3294 SD2 HD1.