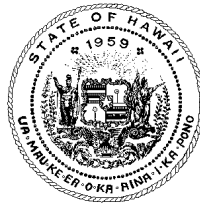


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 9681e

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 3294, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES.

by

Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 10:05 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers comments on Senate Bill (SB) 3294, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which seeks to appropriate \$200,000.00 to fund reentry circles for at least fifty (50) incarcerated women.

PSD believes the therapeutic processes that may result in participation in reentry circles would best serve offenders and their families as part of jail diversion programs, not after conviction and sentencing. The potential positive outcomes of these types of circles could possibly serve as very effective intervention strategies in community-based incarceration diversion initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 3294, SD 1.

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 WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3294, S.D. 1

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES

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

Senate Bill No. 3294, S.D. 1, appropriates \$200,000 in general funds to the Department of Public Safety for FY 23 to fund reentry planning circles for at least 50 incarcerated women. This bill is intended to lower recidivism rates and provide solution-based planning processes for the development of detailed plans for obtaining housing, employment, and other necessities upon the release of inmates from incarceration.

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.



SB3294 SD1 Huikahi Circles (Restorative Circles) for Offender Reentry

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Feb 23 2022: 10:05 am : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB3294 SD1:

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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

10:05 AM

SB 3294 SD1 - STRONG SUPPORT for WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 4,052 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,111 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 is in strong support of this measure for statewide work furlough programs for women. The system is normed to medium security, violent males, so their numbers (3,659) are far greater and males get more attention than incarcerated women (393). The department's February 14, 2022 population report showed that women represented 9.7% of the total incarcerated population (4,052).

Work furlough programs have been quite limited for the women. We know that many of the women are mothers, therefore, helping them to acquire and develop work skills to facilitate their reentry is a win-win situation for themselves, their families, and the community! Women cannot support their families without proper training for jobs that will pay them a wage that will enable them to take care of themselves and their families.

We urge the committee to support work furlough programs for women.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

"When women support each other, incredible things happen."

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran., Vice Chair

LATE

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 2002
TIME: 10:05 a.m.

SUPPORT FOR SB3294 RELATING TO REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES

Good morning Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members. I am Marianita Lopez testifying on behalf of the Women's Prison Project (WPP) in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB3294 to appropriate \$200,000 to provide the [reentry planning process, known as huikahi circles](#), for at least 50 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. They have been provided at several state prisons, but mainly at WCCC.

The huikahi 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.

The process has been [extensively researched](#). It is [healing for children and other loved ones](#). An [independent evaluation](#) of the process shows it reduces recidivism. Another study shows it can help decrease Hawaii's prison population.

We urge the Committee on Ways and means to please pass SB3294.

If you have any questions about WPP's support, please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712.

Marianita Lopez
On behalf of the Women's Prison Project

LATE

SB-3294-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:17:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikos Leverenz	Testifying for Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHC) supports SB 3294, SD 1, which appropriates moneys to fund reentry planning circles for at least fifty incarcerated women.

HHHC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. The continued criminalization of those with behavioral health problems compounds their suffering and further jeopardizes their health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-3294-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:01:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB3294 SD1 appropriates moneys to fund reentry planning circles for at least fifty incarcerated women.

Research evidence has shown that people engaging in reentry planning circles have a much lower rate of recidivism. It makes sense that planning for such a drastic change from an austere, regimented, and secure lifestyle in which food and housing are provided to a completely opposite life would be a major disorienting transition. The Huikahi planning circles would help ease the entry into the community by addressing the needs that people have for housing, employment, reconnection with social networks, etc.

My only question is why hasn't this been done sooner. The evidence is so clear.