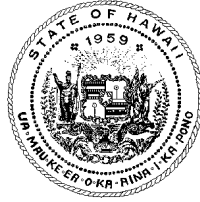


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 744
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

by
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 1:20 p.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill (SB) 744, seeks to repeal the authorization for the Governor to negotiate with any person for the development or expansion of private correctional facilities. This measure also seeks to prohibit the establishment of private correctional facilities in the State.

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) understands the intent of SB 744 and provides comments for consideration. At present, Hawaii's correctional facilities, which includes eight (8) jails and prisons that are old and outdated, manpower-intensive, and constantly in need of repairs. As of January 31, 2021, six (6) of the eight (8) facilities were operating above their designed capacity and have been for some time (See attached January 2021 inmate population report). The newest correctional facility in Hawaii is the Halawa Correctional Facility, which opened in 1985 and is now over 35 years old. The remaining seven (7) facilities range in age from 40 to over 100 years old.

Despite the increases in both the prison and jail populations over the years, Hawaii has not built a new correctional facility in over 35 years. In 1995 following the Spear vs. Ariyoshi consent decree brought by the U.S. Department

of Justice, PSD began housing inmates out of State in various private prisons on the mainland. While it is unfortunate that approximately 1,000 Hawaii inmates must be housed on the mainland via private prison contracts, the use of private prisons is necessary in order to prevent costly litigation and additional consent decrees relating to overcrowding and inhumane conditions in our facilities. It should be noted, federal consent decrees can be very costly and could require the State to allocate hundreds of millions, if not, billions, of dollars to build and modernize Hawaii's aging and decrepit facilities.

To that end, repealing the authorization for the Governor to negotiate with any person for the development or expansion of private correctional facilities would be short-sighted and hamper the State's ability to react more quickly to overcrowding in our jails and prisons. For example, at present the Judiciary has more than 18,000 offenders on probation supervision statewide, which includes over 9,000 convicted felons. If only 10% of the sentenced felony probationers (approximately 900) were resentenced to prison, the State's correctional system, which is already severely strained, with insufficient capacity to house all of our current inmates in Hawaii facilities, would be overwhelmed. This measure would take away PSD's flexibility to respond to and rectify emergency situations.

As an example, the courts have been closed for several months now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the courts' reopening, PSD will see an influx of offenders at all security levels from all of the four (4) counties. The influx may very likely require PSD to seek additional bed space to house the offenders sentenced to prison and sentenced felony probationers resentenced to prison.

With respect to the prohibition on the establishment of private correctional facilities in the State, PSD takes no position, as such a policy decision would be made by both the Governor and the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding SB 744.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
END OF MONTH POPULATION REPORT**

Date: January 31, 2021

FAC.	DESIGN BED CAP.	OPER. BED CAP.	HEAD COUNT ENDING																		
			TOT.	M	F	SENT. FEL.		SENT. FEL. PROB.		SENT. MISD.		PRETRIAL FEL.		PRETRIAL MISD.		OTHER JURIS.		PAR VIOL.		PRB VIOL.	
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
HCCC	206	226	277	228	49	26	4	33	7	6	1	113	23	11	2	3		15	4	21	8
SNF	90	132	90	90	0	90															
HMSF	496	992	798	798	0	222		8		1		14						547		6	
KCCC	110	128	134	116	18	33	3	19	7	9		40	5	8	1					7	2
KCF	200	200	138	138	0	138															
MCCC	209	301	308	259	49	25	5	34	6	4	1	128	23	6	1	2	0	28	2	32	11
OCCC	628	954	949	860	89	127		74	14	14		416	36	46	9					183	30
WCCC	258	260	209	0	209		145						1						62		1
WCF	294	334	218	218	0	144												74			
TOTAL	2491	3527	3121	2707	414	805	157	168	34	34	2	711	88	71	13	5	0	664	68	249	52

	CONTRACTED FACILITIES																			
	TOT.	M	F	SF		SFP		SM		PTF		PTM		OJ		PARV		PRBV		
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
RED ROCK CC, AZ	0	0	0																	
SAGUARO CC, AZ	999	999	0	956													43			
FEDERAL DET. CTR. ¹	10	4	6		1		1		1		1		2							4
TOTAL	1009	1003	6	956	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	43	0	4	0	

FAC.	DESIGN BED CAP.	OPER. BED CAP.	ASSIGNED COUNT ENDING																		
			TOT.	M	F	SENT. FEL.		SENT. FEL. PROB.		SENT. MISD.		PRETRIAL FEL.		PRETRIAL MISD.		OTHER JURIS.		PAR VIOL.		PRB VIOL.	
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
HCCC	206	226	290	241	49	30	4	37	7	7	1	113	23	11	2	6		15	4	22	8
SNF	90	132	90	90	0	90															
HMSF	496	992	809	809	0	228		8		1		14						552		6	
KCCC	110	128	143	123	20	38	5	19	7	11		40	5	8	1					7	2
KCF	200	200	138	138	0	138															
MCCC	209	301	308	259	49	25	5	34	6	4	1	128	23	6	1	2	0	28	2	32	11
OCCC	628	954	968	879	89	135		75	14	15		417	36	47	9	2		2		186	30
WCCC	258	260	237	0	237		169		1	1		1							64		1
WCF	294	334	218	218	0	144												74			
MAINLAND			999	999	0	956												43			
TOTAL	2491	3527	4200	3756	444	1784	183	173	35	38	3	712	88	72	13	10	0	714	70	253	52

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**

February 9, 2021

S.B. No. 744: RELATING TO THE PHASEOUT OF PRIVATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender respectfully **supports** S.B. No. 744, which seeks to repeal the authorization for the Governor to negotiate with any person for the development or expansion of private correctional facilities and prohibit the establishment of private correctional facilities in the State.

Justice Michael D. Wilson and the HCR 85 Task Force’s Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawai‘i Legislature 2019 Regular Session addresses this very issue, recommending that “Hawai‘i Should Develop a Plan to Bring All of its Mainland Prisoners Back to Hawai‘i and to Stop Using Private Prisons.”¹

In Hawai‘i, our prison population has increased 670% in the last 40 years.² And our incarceration rate has risen to the point that if we were a nation instead of a state, we would rank fifth in the world, behind United States, El Salvador, Turkmenistan and

¹ Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawai‘i Legislature 2019 Regular Session, “Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities” (December 2018) at 57, https://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/HCR-85-Task-Force-on-Prison-Reform_Final-Report_12.28.18.pdf.

² HCR 85 Report at 3.

Cuba (excluding the other 49 states).³ But this has not made us one of the safest places in the world.⁴

While Hawai‘i’s alarming rate of imprisonment deprives individuals of freedom, loved ones from their families, and drains the limited resources of our State, communities, and taxpayers, the private prison industry has been reaping lucrative profits. This Act is a first step in stopping corporations from profiting off of the incarceration Hawai‘i’s citizens.

Incarceration is expensive. In 2017, Hawai‘i spent \$255 million on corrections, accounting for 3 percent of the state’s total general fund spending that year.⁵ General fund spending for Corrections increased by 263 percent between 1985 and 2017.⁶ Feeding and caring for an incarcerated person costs \$198 a day in Hawai‘i.⁷ Pre-COVID19, we were spending around \$209,000 a day (\$76 million annually) to incarcerate more than 1,000 people statewide simply because they were too poor to afford bail.⁸

Expenditures for Corrections costs come with trade-offs in other state spending priorities like education, healthcare, and social services. Between 1987 and 2007, corrections budgets rose by 127 percent while higher education funding increased by only 21 percent, forcing the cost of attending higher education to increase each year. The cost of attending the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for the 2019-2020 school year, including tuition, room, board, books, supplies, and personal expenses, was \$30,000.⁹ With a day’s savings from bail reform alone, we could pay all

³ Prison Policy Initiative, “States of Incarceration: The Global Context.” *See* <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>; *See also* World Prison Brief, Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR), Data for Sweden, <http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/sweden>. (Hawai‘i incarceration rate of 390 prisoners per 100,000 population would put Hawai‘i in the top 20 incarcerators in the world).

⁴ VERA, “Incarceration Trends in Hawaii.” *See* <https://www.vera.org/downloads/pdfdownloads/state-incarceration-trends-hawaii.pdf>

⁵ State of Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance, “Executive Biennium Budget, Fiscal Biennium 2017-2019, Operating and Capital Budget-Department of Public Safety,” <https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/24.-Department-of-Public-Safety-FB17-19-PFP.pdf>

⁶ National Association of State Budget Officers, State Expenditure Report series, <https://www.nasbo.org/reports-data/state-expenditure-report/state-expenditure-archives>.

⁷ State of Hawaii Department of Public Safety Annual Report FY 2019, <https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PSD-ANNUAL-REPORT-2019.pdf> at 16.

⁸ These numbers have decreased during the COVID19 pandemic but will soon go back to the preCOVID19 numbers unless we adopt the policies recommended in the HCR 85 Task Force.

⁹ University of Hawaii at Mānoa, 2019-2020 Cost of Attendance, Accessed December 31, 2019, <https://www.collegesimply.com/colleges/hawaii/university-of-hawaii-at-manoa/price/>.

expenses for a full year of education for 7 students at U.H. Mānoa, and with the savings from a year of bail reform, we could pay all expenses for more than 2,500 students.

Having been a “frontline trial attorney” and having represented hundreds of clients who have been incarcerated, I have seen firsthand that relying on our jails and prisons to solve all of our societal problems is not making us safer. Mass incarceration is a result of many systems failing to support the basic community needs people need to thrive. To end it, and the need to build private prisons, we must develop policies that better address inadequacies throughout our education, health care, and economic systems – to name a few.

This Act is a step in the right direction to prohibit private prisons in Hawai‘i from profiting on the increased incarceration of our citizens, and especially those people living in poverty, with mental health and substance use disorders. Furthermore, it will aid greatly in solving the unfairness and injustice experienced by other groups which include women, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Black communities.¹⁰

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

¹⁰ American Civil Liberties Union, “Blueprint for Smart Justice Hawai‘i” (2019), <https://50stateblueprint.aclu.org/states/hawaii/>.

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney



Rebecca Vogt Like
Second Deputy

Jennifer S. Winn
First Deputy

Diana Gausepohl-White
Victim/Witness Program Director

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

February 9, 2021

RE: S.B. 744 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kauai submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 744.

This bill prohibits the establishment of private correctional facilities in the State by repealing the authorization for the governor to negotiate for their development or expansion.

Private correctional facilities are by definition for profit. Their goal of generating the greatest possible profit is in direct conflict with providing safe and humane conditions. This applies both to the inmates and the staff. Private prisons are often understaffed, overcrowded and unsafe. The Department of Justice found that, in general, private prisons provide fewer correctional services at greater security and safety risk to inmates and staff, without producing substantial savings. The federal government and at least twenty-two states have stopped using for-profit prisons for the above reasons.

For these reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of S.B. 744. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



SB 744, RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

FEBRUARY 9, 2021 · SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. CLARENCE K.
NISHIHARA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SB 744, relating to correctional facilities, which repeals the authorization for the governor to negotiate with any person for the development or expansion of private correctional facilities and prohibits the establishment of private correctional facilities in the State.

Private prisons have no place in Hawai'i. Already, our state undermines its commitment to restorative justice, each day, by criminalizing low-level offenses, like possession of small amounts of marijuana or, under Honolulu's sit-lie bans, the act of being homeless and tired. As the visitor industry reaps record profits, people of Native Hawaiian ancestry, who comprise approximately 25 percent of the state's population, suffer the pangs of a biased criminal (in)justice system. Approximately 39 percent of incarcerated detainees are Hawaiian, according to a comprehensive study by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, with the proportionality gap being even greater for Hawaiian women, who comprise 19.8 percent of the state's female population, but 44 percent of the state's female inmate population. Researchers also found that, on average, Hawaiians receive longer sentences, more parole revocations, and harsher drug-related punishments than other ethnic groups.

Private prisons only incentivize the cycle of crime by providing a financial motivation for the further criminalization of nonviolent offenses and imposition of longer sentences. Private prisons are run as businesses, after all. Without inmates, they cannot turn a profit. America's for-profit prison industry currently controls 126,000 Americans' lives. As Lauren Brooke-Eisen, Senior Counsel in the Brennan Center's Justice Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, has argued, "It's a \$5 billion sector—one that encompasses the operation of 65 percent of the nation's immigration detention beds. And at the same time, it is largely opaque, often unaccountable to the public or the government."

When Hawai'i began sending prisoners to the private detention centers on the mainland in 1995, the policy was proposed as a temporary measure to relieve overcrowding of local prisons. More than 20 years later though, 1,459 inmates—35 percent of Hawai'i's prison population—remain on the continental United States, locked inside a notorious private facility in the Arizona desert, midway between Tucson and Phoenix, nearly 3,000 miles from home. That prison, the Saguaro Correctional Center—named after a cactus native to the Sonoran Desert and based in the small town of Eloy—is run by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), recently renamed CoreCivic, the country's largest private-prison firm.

The company isn't legally obligated to respond to public information requests and regularly refuses to answer even the most basic questions about its practices. Private prisons are not subject to the same freedom of information and open records laws as other government agencies. Without access to information, of course, it is impossible to know what injuries are being suffered by detainees. Former security guards who have worked at private prisons say that prisoner abuse is rampant, since disclosure of allegations is extremely rare. In the case of at least some Hawai'i prisoners sent to the mainland—like Johnathan Namauleg, Clifford Medina, and Bronson Nunuha—private prisons have proven to be a death sentence.

In 2010, staff from the Office of the State Auditor accompanied state contract monitors conducting a quarterly inspection of Saguaro. They watched as monitors accepted the testimony of CCA staff "without verifying their statements against documentary evidence" and concluded, in a lengthy report, that Hawai'i "lacked objectivity" when monitoring CCA. This should come as little surprise, since, over the past five years, CCA has spent more than \$500,000 to lobby local politicians. Here,

we'd be remiss not to note that one of the firm's highest-paid lobbyists was Douglas Chin, Hawai'i's Attorney General, who earned more than \$100,000 for his services.

If private prisons are introduced on our shores, the Saguaro nightmare will unfold in our own backyard. Incarceration should not be a goal of our state's criminal justice system. Expansion of the prison-industrial complex through for-profit detention centers only casts a pall over the treatment of offenders, who should be afforded every opportunity to become productive members of society. At the same time, if our state is committed to constructing a "new OCCC" capable of housing 1,300 inmates—something Imua Alliance firmly opposes—then the introduction of private prisons is not needed.

We must build people, not prisons. We must strive to increase people's access to justice, not time spent in jail cells.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

1:20 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 744 BANS DEVELOPMENT OF CORPORATE CAGES IN HAWAI'I NEI

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, 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 4,100 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,000 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 stands in strong support of this measure to add language prohibiting private/corporate cages to §353-16.35, HRS 'Development or expansion of in-state correctional facilities.'

This is important to put in statute now as these profiteers of misery are trying to worm their way deeper into communities and state economies as the threat of losing federal contracts looms. Please don't be swayed by their sweet talk. Too many of our people have died, been murdered and assaulted in incidents that are a shameful example of poor management by the corporation and a lack of pitiful lack of oversight by the state that has been known and allowed to continue for decades.

Please support this measure to shut the door to corporate cages now. Don't let this be a battle our kids have to fight. It's time to end profiteering from the misery of human beings.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony.



Hawai'i

Committees: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 1:20 p.m.
Place: Via videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.B. 744, Relating to Correctional Facilities

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and members of the Committee,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of S.B. 744**, which prohibits the use of for-profit correctional facilities in the State.

For-profit jails and prisons are a multibillion-dollar industry. By definition, a for-profit prison will be driven by maximizing profit, not by what is best for rehabilitation and public safety. In a 2016 review of for-profit prisons, the U.S. Office of the Inspector General found that overall, for-profit prisons are *less* safe and *less* secure than government-run prisons.¹ For-profit prisons are typically paid per person housed there. As a result, they benefit from harsher sentencing and the curtailment of probation and parole. While the State has a joint duty to protect public safety and the civil rights of those in its custody, private prison executives have fiduciary duties to shareholders and incentives to maximize profits — incentives that often conflict with public safety and ensuring civil rights of those in custody.

For-profit prisons do not necessarily save Hawai'i money, either. On the contrary, it may cost the State *more* to incarcerate inmates in private prisons than in state-run facilities.² This is despite private prisons' tendency to cherry pick the people housed there, often choosing those who are the least expensive to incarcerate.³ We must end the Department of Public Safety's use of for-profit prisons and ban future contracts to use for-profit correctional facilities, while simultaneously enacting comprehensive reforms in the areas of bail, sentencing, and probation/parole, could offer long-term cost savings for the state.

¹ This report concerns for-profit facilities contracted to house federal inmates. U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, *Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Monitoring of Contract Prisons*, Aug 2016, available at <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2016/e1606.pdf>.

² D. M. Levine, *What's Costlier than a Government Run Prison? A Private One*, *Fortune*, Aug 18 2010, https://money.cnn.com/2010/08/17/news/economy/private_prisons_economic_impact.fortune/index.htm.

³ Richard A. Oppel Jr., *Private Prisons Found to Offer Little in Savings*, May 18, 2011, <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/19/us/19prisons.html>.

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee
February 9, 2021
Page 2 of 2

For these reasons, we request that the Committee support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Mandy Fernandes
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-744

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 11:59:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:34:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support SB744. Overcrowding in our correctional facilities can be significantly reduced by ending cash bail, creating programs & beds to address mental & drug disabilities and providing housing. Stopping the governor from continuing to negotiate with any person for the development or expansion of private correctional facilities can free up time and resources to work on these programs, programs that other states have implemented successfully. I strongly support prohibiting the establishment of private correctional facilities in HI. We can learn from other states that private prisons are not in the best interest of anyone but the companies who profit from enticing states with their promises. For profit prisons make money by ensuring their beds are full. We need programs that prevent incarceration and provide rehabilitation...programs that empty prison beds. Thank you.

LATE

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:21:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Mrowczynski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly **support** SB744. There is absolutely no need for the privatization of correctional facilities, especially here in Hawai`i.

LATE

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 11:15:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 744 which repeals the authorization for the governor to negotiate with any person for the development or expansion of private correctional facilities and prohibits the establishment of private correctional facilities in the State.

Private prisons are for-profit entities that seek to maximize profits at the expense of inmates for the benefit of their shareholders. Finally, states throughout the nation have acknowledged this deplorable track record and have moved to phase out private prisons. The Biden administration has ordered a ban on federal government use of private prisons and banks are refusing to loan to them.

There is an increasing realization on the part of the public of the many shortcomings of private prisons, the Governor's determined pursuit of private-prison partnerships is puzzling as well as disturbing. We would like to think that our leaders are somewhat aware of the many problems posed by private prisons, not the least of which are the huge liability costs that private prison negligence and cost-cutting imposes on states through liability claims. SB 744 would avoid these problems in the future.

However, given the seeming lack of awareness of best practices in effective criminal justice reform and the need for a basic and realistic assessment of current and future prison requirements, it is hoped that the Governor would have access to knowledgeable experts in order to make decisions about the new correctional center that would be appropriate for Hawaii's correctional system needs now and into the future.

Please pass SB 744. Mahalo for your consideration.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

LATE

SB-744

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 11:47:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Private for profit prisons capitalize on mass incarceration. Civic Civic and GEO Group, the two private prison industry giants are beholden to their shareholders - and are ultimately focused on increasing profits. Incarcerating people for profit is morally unethical as it places financial gain above the public's interest in safety, health and rehabilitation.

Don't let the private for profit industry step foot in Hawai'i. Please enact SB 744.