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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

1:20 PM

Via Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 949

RELATING TO THE OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER SITE.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following **comments** in support of the intent of SB 949. SB 949 would establish a 20-member working group to examine redevelopment of the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) site and its surrounding area once OCCC is relocated. The working group would consult with community residents and businesses and other public and private stakeholders in identifying and developing recommendations for redevelopment to promote delivery of affordable housing and employment and economic development opportunities for the community. The working group would be administratively attached to OP for support, and would submit reports to the Governor, the Legislature, the City Mayor, and the City Council no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2022 and 2023 regular session.

The OCCC site was identified as a potential TOD site in the *State Strategic Plan for Transit-Oriented Development* issued by the Hawai'i Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD Council). As TOD Council co-chair and lead agency for State TOD, OP supports the concept of a community planning and consultation process that would explore how redevelopment of the site could serve a range of community and TOD objectives, and we support the concept of early engagement in envisioning the potential of this strategic site.

While we would be willing to serve as the facilitator and support for the working group effort, we believe the timing of this effort may be premature. This effort would be more timely and more effective if undertaken as a preliminary step in a master planning process for the site once construction and relocation of OCCC is underway.

In addition, under current fiscal constraints, it would be difficult at this time for OP staff to support an effort of this size without the resources needed to support community and stakeholder engagement and provide urban design and community economic development principles and precedents for consideration in this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2021 AT 1:20PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SB 949, RELATING TO THE OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER SITE

February 9, 2021

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 949, which establishes the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) site redevelopment working group to bring together state and county agencies, private entities, and the broader Kalihi community to examine how to best utilize the OCCC site and the surrounding area after the correctional center is relocated to a new location and identify, work through, and recommend solutions to issues relating to the redevelopment.

This bill proposes that the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee serve as a member of the working group. The Oahu Island Plan of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands identified a land shortage on Oahu and the need to acquire new lands to award homesteads to all Oahu applicants. DHHL is open to exploring housing opportunities for beneficiaries.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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

OPPOSITION TO SB 949 - OCCC REDEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

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 is in opposition to this measure. The flawed, top-down OCCC relocation process has been facing huge community outcry that the government has totally ignored. Meanwhile the state is working to placate the Kalihi community with a ‘process’ to gather their input while ignoring the 800 pound gorilla in the room.

Sadly, we know all about the government ‘process’ of “community engagement” and this bill underscores our concerns. *“The purposes of this bill are to establish the OCCC site redevelopment working group to bring together state and county agencies, private entities, and the broader Kalihi community to: examine ways to best utilize the OCCC site and the surrounding area after the correctional center is relocated to a new location and to identify, study, work through, and recommend solutions to issues relating to the redevelopment of the OCCC site and the surrounding area.”*

Our concerns are many but to name a few, I will start with the fact that there is no information about who is incarcerated and why they are imprisoned and no discussion about alternatives to building more cages for people who can’t make bail.

In other words, the government is convening people from a community under economic stress to get their buy-in to build a humongous jail to lock up their friends and family.

Our concerns surround the 20-member working group that has 16 bureaucrats from various state and city agencies and 4 community organization members.

One of the biggest problems with this lopsided working group is that there is little trust that the government will work in the interest of working people when the balance is 80:20. That does not even give the illusion that the government cares about what the community thinks.

This is the ‘working group’ identified in the bill:

BEAUCRATS 18:

- (1) *The governor or the governor’s designee, who shall convene the working group’s initial meeting;*
- (2) *The member of the state senate whose district includes the OCCC site or designee;*
- (3) *The member of the state house of representatives whose district includes the OCCC site or designee;*
- (4) *The superintendent of education or designee;*
- (5) *The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or the chairperson’s designee;*
- (6) *The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or designee;*
- (7) *The director of public safety or designee;*
- (8) *The director of transportation or designee;*
- (9) *The director of the office of planning designee;*
- (10) *The chancellor of the Honolulu community college or designee;*
- (11) *The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation or designee;*
- (12) *The mayor of the city and county of Honolulu or designee;*
- (13) *The member of the Honolulu city council whose district includes the OCCC site or designee;*
- (14) *The director of the department of facility maintenance of the city and county of Honolulu or the director’s designee;*
- (15) *The director of the department of planning and permitting (affectionately known as the Department of Permitting and Permitting) of the city and county of Honolulu or designee;*
- (16) *The executive director of the Honolulu authority for rapid transit or designee; (that’s the Trifecta: Rail Fail; Jail Fail; Bail Fail!)*

COMMUNITY 4:

- 17) A member of the Kalihi/Palama neighborhood board # fifteen;**

(18) A representative to be invited from Kamehameha Schools;

(19) A representative from Kokua Kalihi Valley; AND

(20) A representative to be invited from the Susanna Wesley Community Center.

Does 20% input even sound remotely inclusive and meaningful against an 80% government push?

Sadly, this is how Hawai`i does development:

- i. Determine the desired outcome
- ii. Appoint the people to make it happen
- iii. Bring in 3 designs and ask the 'working group' which one they like - even those not discussed by the group
- iv. The group likes the design preferred by the state!
- v. Done! The process worked ... for the government
- vi. The community gets the bill and m-a-y-b-e a mahalo.

The broader Honolulu community needs to be part of this discussion since it will have a huge impact on Honolulu. We need to have a REAL DISCUSSION and plenty of it how to address our punitive criminal justice policies that have led to the overcriminalization of people suffering from public health, social challenges, and poverty and have torn apart the social fabric of our communities. The state needs to stop hiding our challenges. Helping Kalihi identify their needs and what kind of community Kalihi envisions in which to raise their families will spark innovative ideas from the community and bring people together for the common good.

How can the community be assured they won't get screwed over in this process? How can they be confident that some mega development won't get approved? Will the government ensure that the Kalihi community won't get priced out of their homes? We need honesty, transparency, and accountability in processes that impact our lives. It's time for honest discussions.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our deep concerns. This multi-million dollar JAIL FAIL needs to STOP NOW. Please listen to the people.

*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured
by the compassionate actions of its members."*

Coretta Scott King

Testimony on SB949
February 8, 2021
State of Hawaii Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
(PSM)

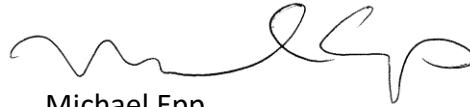
Aloha Honored Members of our State Senate PSM Committee,

Kokua Kalihi Valley (Comprehensive Family Services) fully supports SB949, Relating to the Oahu Community Correctional Center Site. SB949 establishes a community working group to guide the redevelopment of the current Oahu Correction Center site. Acreage under the current Oahu Correction Center Site is a key community asset that should be redeveloped using principles and strategies that ensure their alignment with aloha 'aina values and the sustainability, resilience, and health of current Kalihi residents. For the last two years, Kokua Kalihi Valley has been working with a collaborative of leaders focused on increasing community voice in urban development in Kalihi. We look forward to fully participating in this essential working group.

Thank you.



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SB-949

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:02:07 PM

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

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

Comments:

Oppose.

SB-949

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:33:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shiota	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and Committee Members:

My name is Carrie Ann Shiota, and I am writing to provide comments in opposition to SB 949 to establish a OCCC redevelopment working group to examine how best utilize te OCCC site after OCCC is relocated.

As background, I am an attorney and have experience enforcing state and federal fair employment, housing and public accommodation laws. Additionally, I have previously served as the Director for Maui Economic Opportunity's Reintegration Program, and have had family members impacted by the criminal legal system.

My message is simple: We need a broader vision for Reimaging Public Safety in Hawai'i. Jails and prisons make us poorer, not safer.

Building new jails and prisons, expanding them, contracting with private prisons or purchasing the Federal Detention Center are not solutions to overcrowding.

Reimaging public safety requires us to create, invest and sustain institutions, policies ad programs that meet the needs of our community to divert and significantly reduce the number of youth and adults in our criminal legal system.

How do we do this? By shifting the state's budget priorities away from mass criminalization and incarceration towards health and human services, housing, education, rehabilitation and restorative justice.

This bill is problematic because it is based on the assumption that the State will build a new OCCC jail at a different site.

Instead of creating a NEW working group, please follow the recommendations of HCR 85, the Native Hawaiian Criminal Justice Task Force Group, and Council of State Government Justice Reinvestment's recommendations for Hawai'i. In addition, please follow best practices to significantly reduce the incarcerated population, save money and reinvest the "savings" into infrastructure, services and programs that have proven to divert people from jail and prison, assist with rehabilitation and help individualls to successfully transition back home.

If we're going to BUILD something, let's build more housing, more community based one-stop shop centers, residential and transitional treatment centers and reentry hubs.

Please look at a wonderful example of building for RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE - RESTORE OAKLAND!

Let's invest in what works, rather than creating more bureaucratic driven groups that are intent are building jails, rather than addressing the roots of mass incarceration.

Mahalo for the oportunity to submit comments on this measure.

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

LATE

SB-949

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 1:37:01 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 949 which would establish an OCCC site redevelopment working group to assemble all stake holders, including the local Kalihi community, to examine how best to use the area after the correctional center is relocated and to recommend solutions to redevelopment issues based on local community needs.

This bill is terribly flawed because it does not give enough weight to a community decision making process to determine the needs of the community. As currently constituted, the 20-member working group is overweighted with non-community people and this will drown out the voices of the Kalihi community and prevent them from having influence over the future of their community. Also, the bill requires **ONLY TWO MEETINGS** in which community members will be able to comment and provide input on the "solutions" that have been provided for them by the top-down working group. This is not a community decision making process!

The bill also states that "For decades, government and private entities have shown interest in developing the Oahu Community Correctional Center site." I am sure that has been the case and that development interests will be prioritized in the working group. There is no guarantee that the local community will have any significant input besides the four members sitting on the sidelines and watching while their community is shaped by the "government and private entities" that have "shown interest" in developing the site.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject SB 949.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

LATE

SB-949

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:24:36 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly **OPPOSE** SB949. There is absolutely no need to build a new jail; we need to decarcerate and create/expand alternatives to incarceration.