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GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
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Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
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Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1131, HD1
RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023; 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Via Video Conference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 1131, HD1 which appropriates funding to the University of Hawaii Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health to conduct a comparative study of all programs offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

PSD believes a comparative study of correctional programming to include any proposed legislation and funding will assist our efforts to create successful pathways for offenders as they re-enter the community. To maintain the integrity and validity of a study of programming for incarcerated men and women for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates, PSD strongly supports the inclusion of the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) and its Correctional Program Checklist Committee (CPC) to review documents, observe program components, interactions, and interview staff and participants in order to evaluate effective programming practices in the delivery of quality programs offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State. More importantly, if any area of improvement, range, or disparity is identified, PSD will assist the contractor in

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House Committee on Finance
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addressing areas in need of improvement and any potential sources of funding to facilitate parity in the range and quality of programming that is offered to female and male inmates in the State shall require PSD approval and a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1131, HD1.



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

By
Interim Dean Tetine Sentell
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health
And
Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1131 HD1 – RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitigawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent on HB 1131 HD1, which requires the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health to conduct a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State, for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

The vision of the UH Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health is achieving social justice and health equity for the people of Hawai'i and citizens in a changing world. This work is aligned with our vision and our faculty would welcome the opportunity to gather information which would enhance pathways toward gender parity in programs for incarcerated women.

We appreciate the appropriation of funds to support this important work, provided that the passage of HB 1311 HD1, does not impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

HB-1131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 1:06:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB1131. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member



February 21, 2023

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Chair House Committee on Finance

**Re: H.B. No. 1131, H.D. 1 Relating to Gender Parity in Programs for
Incarcerated Women.**

**Hearing: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 2:30 p.m., Room 308 via
Videoconference**

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Hawaii Women Lawyers supports **H.B. 1131**, which proposes to require the University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health to conduct a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State of Hawaii to identify potential gaps in programming offered to female inmates. H.B. 1131 also appropriates necessary funds to facilitate accomplishing the purpose of this bill.

The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

The proposed bill recognizes the significant importance of supporting the education and treatment of female inmates. By calling upon the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health to conduct a comprehensive study into the range and quality of programming offered to female inmates as compared to male inmates, the bill welcomes greater parity of educational opportunity, job training and treatment services between incarcerated women and men. This is a much-needed step forward towards gender equality within the correctional facilities of Hawaii.

For the above reasons, Hawaii Women Lawyers supports **H.B. 1131** and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-1131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:03:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Rich	Women's Prison Project	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 2:30 p.m. VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 308 State Capitol

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB711 RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports HB1131 which would determine the State's compliance with Section 367D-1 of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which requires that "incarcerated women shall be provided a range and quality of programming substantially equivalent to the range and quality of programming offered to male persons who are similarly situated." To date there are no reports that verify such parity.

The statute further states that programming should specifically address "the psychosocial developmental needs of women". Programming is required to be "substantially equivalent to..." but not necessarily identical to programming for men.

HB1131 would appropriate \$120,000 for a study to provide a comprehensive view of programming across Hawaii's corrections system, looking especially at gaps in programming for incarcerated women. The study will highlight the specific rehabilitation needs of women which may or may not currently be met.

In order to evaluate the current level of parity for women, it will be necessary to identify all programming offered to incarcerated men as well as that offered to women. The information gained in this process will provide a valuable tool for future planning, not only for women but for all incarcerated persons as Hawaii moves toward the rehabilitative system implied by the new department designation of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The study will highlight the specific rehabilitation needs of women which may or may not currently be met.

Effective planning requires a comprehensive analysis of current programming, a knowledge of best practices, and identification of key programming options in order to achieve the goal of

reducing recidivism. We cannot continue to accept a 50% recidivism rate for women leaving Women's Community Correctional Center. We urge the legislature to mandate and fully fund the proposed parity study

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1131.

Linda Rich

On Behalf of Women's Prison Project

HB-1131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 4:57:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 1131 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

HB-1131-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 12:41:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone that is applying to the Thompson school of social work and public health next semester to major in social work, I support this bill. Studying the sociology of women, women's rights, and genders outside the binary, we need to ensure that we close the gap between men and other genders. This bill will give us more insight into how we can close that gap and make sure that more inmates are rehabilitated when their sentence is over.