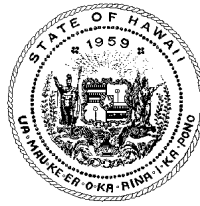


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



LATE

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 67, HOUSE DRAFT 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PU`UHONUA PROGRAM.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

AND

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 3:17 p.m.
CR 225 and Via Videoconference

Chair Wakai, Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kidani, and
Members of both Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 67, House Draft (HD) 1, which seeks to appropriate funding to the Windward Community College Pu`uhonua program for three (3) full-time positions. With the reinstatement of the Pell Grant, these positions will support the higher education opportunities at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF), and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF).

PSD has been working with Windward Community College Pu`uhonua program for the last 5 years at WCCC and more recently at HCF for the past year, providing college credited classes. PSD is supportive of providing committed persons with higher education opportunities to lower the recidivism rate in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 67, HD1.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 3:17 p.m.

By
Della Teraoka
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 67 HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PUUHONUA PROGRAM

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

Windward Community College strongly supports HB 67 HD1, which would appropriate funds for the Pu'uhonua Program at Windward Community College (WCC). Since 2017, WCC has offered credit bearing college education at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) and Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF). Courses have been offered at Halawa Correctional Facility since 2022. All college coursework and support services to date have been provided through the use of federal extramural (grant) funding. These funding sources are non-renewable and expire in June 2023 and September 2023.

WCC's Pu'uhonua Program has a proven history of success. Between Fall 2018 and Spring 2022, 218 students were enrolled in college coursework at WCCC and HYCF. These students earned 1057 college credits and 13 certificates. Their overall grade point average was 3.6, which is higher than the on campus student grade point average, demonstrating their aptitude and engagement year after year. In the one semester WCC has provided classes at Halawa Correctional Facility, 16 men have enrolled, earning 45 credits to date and with an overall grade point average of 3.12. Through supportive practices like pro-active counseling and tutoring, Pu'uhonua has resulted in positive educational change for carceral populations.

The Pu'uhonua Program provides effective pathways for incarcerated students to grow critical thinking, career and life skills. It also serves as a pathbreaking model for Hawai'i's educational institutions. WCC is the first college in the University of Hawai'i (UH) system to offer significant credit-bearing education to incarcerated populations. We are also the first to be designated as a Pell Experimental Site, utilizing federal financial aid to cover the cost of tuition, fees and educational materials.

Completing college coursework while incarcerated has been shown both nationally and locally to have significant benefits for the incarcerated individuals, the overall

incarcerated environment and society. While in prison, there is a substantial reduction in violence and disciplinary infraction. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, formerly incarcerated individuals who receive no further education within or after leaving prison are 76% more likely to recidivate within five years; that recidivism number drops to 14% for individuals who obtain an associate's degree. There is a 13% increase in post-release employment for parolees who participate in prison education programs.

After students are released from prison, these positions will continue to benefit the incarcerated individuals and our State. The supportive counselors created herein will connect students to further educational opportunities and resources post-release so they can continue their journey. For example, the students can be referred to career services and placement both online and in person through WCC's career center.

This bill supports an effective, supportive educational intervention that has been proven over seven years of implementation and growth. WCC urges the legislature to invest in effective rehabilitation for incarcerated populations by appropriating the funds to provide the positions necessary to staff WCC's Pu'uhonua program.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 67 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 67 HD1.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair

Sen. Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Room 225 & Videoconference

3:17 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 67 HD1 - PU`UHONUA PROGRAM @ WINDWARD

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Kim, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kidani and Members of the Committees!

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 4,009 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety/Corrections and Rehabilitation on any given day. We are always mindful that 916 - 26.4% of the male imprisoned population² - 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 appreciates this opportunity to testify in strong support of Windward Community College’s successful Pu`uhonua Program. Windward is the only college that implements the Pell Grant. We hope that the legislature will see the importance of this program and the need for funding.

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 13, 2023.

https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2023-03-14_George-King.pdf

² Why are 26.4% of Hawai`i’s male prison population sent thousands of miles from home when the following prisons in Hawai`i have room here: Halawa is at 77%; Halawa Special Needs Facility is at 59%; Kulani is at 44%; Waiawa is at 52% of operational capacity.

This program benefits the entire community by inspiring change through education. There are currently 91 students registered (90% of whom are of native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry) and who are taking classes toward an AA degree.

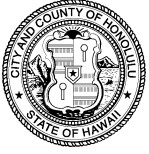
The Pu`uhonua Program not only offers college classes, but guidance, transition support, and resources upon release to women, many of whom are incarcerated due to their social economic background and have become the first generation college students in their families.

The classes have been filled to capacity and over 80% of the women who participated within the last six (6) years have over a 3.0 G.P.A. The graduates of this program have continued their educational journey!

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to pass this bill and send it to WAM with a strong recommendation for funding this great program, especially since many of the women are mothers.

This program can lift families out of poverty and show children that education is the pathway to a better life, as demonstrated by their Moms' participation in higher education.

Mahalo nui for scheduling this bill.



KAHALU'U NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 29

(He'eia Kea. 'Āhuimanu. Kahalu'u. Waihe'e. Ka'alaea. Waiāhole. Waikāne. Hakipu'u. Kualoa)

C/o Neighborhood Commission Office ◊ 925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 160 ◊ Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

PHONE (808) 768-3710 ◊ FAX (808) 768-3711 ◊ INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

"LET US NOT EVER HAVE AN UNHAPPY MINORITY; RATHER, LET US BUILD A COMMUNITY CONSENSUS."

Senate Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
& Higher Education
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 3:17 p.m.
Conf. Rm. 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol

RE: HB 67, HD1, Making an Appropriation for the Pu'uhonua Program

Aloha e nā Luna Ho'omalū Wakai a me Kim, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalū Elefante a me Kidani, a me nā lālā o kēia mau kōmike o ka'Aha Kenekoa.

In our regular board meeting on March 8, 2023, the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29 voted unanimously to **support the concepts** of HB 67, HD1, which appropriates funds for three full-time equivalent positions for Windward community college's Pu'uhonua Program.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony and please do advance this measure.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ka'ano'i Walk".

Ka'ano'i Walk, Chair
Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29



COMMITTEE PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Honorable Representative Glenn Wakai, Chair
Honorable Representative Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023
TIME: 3:17 PM, Via Videoconference & Conference Room 225

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 67 HD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR PU'UHONUA PROGRAM

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ) strongly supports this measure appropriating the funds for Windward Community College (WCC) to support the Pu'uhonua higher education program at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), Halawa Correctional Facility, and the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility.

HFRJ is an educational non-profit entity that has decades of experience collaborating with other community partners to develop, apply, measure, and report on the outcomes of innovations to assist people in accessing justice. HFRJ's work has been replicated in other states and countries and is described in 50 academic articles. HFRJ has experience partnering with WCC on education projects.

Hawai'i has suffered systemic education and recidivism problems since the 1980s. Our current average 5-6th grade educational level for the incarcerated, and the alarming 50% repeat re-incarceration rate for adults in our corrections systems, attests to this costly economic and emotionally harmful problem. Research overwhelmingly shows that [education keeps people out of jail and prison](#). ***Education is rehabilitation.***

The Pu'uhonua Program developed by WCC assists incarcerated to develop cognitive and employment skills. Education gives them the opportunity to attain self-sufficiency and productive law-abiding lives that contribute to human capital for bettering, not harming, our community.

Please support HB67 and assist in its passage. We cannot afford the cost of poverty, crime, and the continue lack of education and opportunities that hurt our community.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's strongest support for this appropriation to support the Pu'uhonua programs please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712.



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

To: Senator Donna Kim, chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, vice-chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Glenn Wakai, chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety
Senator Brandon Elefante, vice-chair, Committee on Public Safety

Wednesday, March 22, 2003

From: Nancy Davlantes, Government Relations Committee

Subject: SUPPORT for HB67 HD1 – Appropriation for Pu`uhonua Program

Aloha Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Elefante, and Committee Members,

Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club writes in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the passage of HB67 HD1 which would appropriate funds for three full-time equivalent positions for Windward Community College's pu'uhonua program.

Completing college coursework while incarcerated has been shown both nationally and locally to decrease recidivism.

This program at WCC has a proven history of success with the vast majority completing their coursework with an A. It provides effective pathways for incarcerated students to grow critical thinking, career and life skills.

Further, the majority of these incarcerated women come from Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Ancestry; most are in this situation due to social economic background, and have become first generation college students.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club believes it is its kuleana to support our windward ohana as they continue to uplift themselves and their community.

We urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko'olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."

I am writing to support HB67 Making an Appropriation for the Pu'uhonua Program. This program provides staffing for Windward CC's incarcerated education program.

Beginning in 2017, I and some of the other trade apprenticeship coordinators have been doing presentations of our respective trades on career opportunities for the inmates when they leave incarceration. One of the main deterrents to recidivism for people leaving our prisons is the hope of having a future away from crime.

Unfortunately, Pu'uhonua cannot provide the help the inmates need with volunteers alone. It needs permanent full-time staffing to provide a rigorous general education requirement, and sometimes, remedial help, to prepare inmates for a college or trade apprenticeship upon release. Without this help, former inmates may struggle in their return to society.

I respectfully request that you support HB67.

Thank you,

Guy T. Shibayama

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:46:50 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Will Caron | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB67 HD1.

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:04:55 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natasha Amaral | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha I'm sending this message to save bill HB67- which will provide staffing for Windward CC's Incarcerated Education Program. I know the amazing things that have been happening with this program and hope that it can continue to serve those that are in need of this program. It helps with them being ready to transition to society when they are released. Mahalo for listening. Mālama!

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:13:54 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Melanie Dorado Wilson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB67 because the benefits of education for incarcerated women include:

1. Improved employment opportunities: Education can help incarcerated women develop the skills and knowledge needed to secure meaningful employment upon release, which can reduce their likelihood of returning to prison.
2. Increased self-esteem and confidence: Education can help incarcerated women develop a sense of pride and accomplishment, which can improve their self-esteem and overall well-being.
3. Better decision-making skills: Education can help incarcerated women develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which can enable them to make better decisions both inside and outside of prison.
4. Improved communication and social skills: Education can help incarcerated women develop better communication and social skills, which can enhance their ability to build healthy relationships with family and friends.
5. Increased civic engagement: Education can help incarcerated women understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and can encourage them to become more engaged in their communities upon release.
6. Reduced recidivism: Studies have shown that education programs for incarcerated individuals can significantly reduce the likelihood of reoffending, which can benefit both the individuals themselves and society as a whole.

Hawai'i would greatly benefit from the continuation and expansion of this program.

Mahalo,

Melanie Dorado Wilson, EdD

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 4:42:40 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Taylor | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The educational Incarcerated Program developed by Windward Community College has changed the lives of inmates who are ready to become productive educated members of our island community. I strongly urge support of HB67 to enable this program to continue to make positive changes in the lives of people striving to better themselves and our community.

Thank you for your consideration of my strong support of HB67.

Nancy Taylor

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Support for HB67: Making An Appropriation to the Pu'uhonua Program

I am writing to express my support of HB67, which appropriates funds for three full-time equivalent positions for the Pu'uhonua Program at Windward Community College.

As the former Pu'uhonua Counselor, I have had the privilege of serving Pu'uhonua Program students from February 2020 to July 2021. During my time, I was inspired by the determination and dedication our students had to their studies and overall success. Despite the overwhelming barriers that the COVID-19 pandemic created, our students pushed to maintain their credit loads, participated in courses through correspondence, and quickly adjusted to online coursework and distance learning. This was the first time college courses and advising sessions were offered online and we were able to graduate our first cohort of students with their Psycho-Social Development Studies certificate. This was one of my proudest moments in my career and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a small part of their achievement.

Windward Community College's Pu'uhonua Program has demonstrated its commitment to not only our students, but our community and State as a whole. Educational access plays an important role in creating equity and growth, especially in the consideration of reentry. If implemented, this bill has the potential to transform lives both directly and indirectly, by supporting a rehabilitative approach. Thus, disrupting the cycle of recidivism and in doing so, increasing public safety, strengthening our people and creating cycles of change within our 'ohana systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB67: Making An Appropriation to the Pu'uhonua Program.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Ashley-Michelle Day, LSW

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 8:29:08 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Colleen Rost-Banik | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Colleen Rost-Banik and I am a Sociology instructor at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. I'm writing to request that you support HB67, which deals with staffing for the Puuhonua Program, a college credit bearing program for incarcerated people on Oahu. I have taught within the program for the past five years (through Windward Community College), providing sociology courses for women at the Women's Community Correctional Center. The women have very few opportunities for college courses, and if this bill does not pass, they will have even fewer opportunities. This bill is crucial for public safety since evidence shows that people with a college degree remain out of prison at much higher rates than those with no college education.

Further, without financial support for this program, what ends up happening, at least at WCCC, is that the women who are interested in higher education seek out correspondence courses from the mainland, typically out of their own pocket. Not only is there a high rate of failure with correspondence courses due to the lack of in-person support and feedback, this structure creates further divisions in regards to who has access to higher education and who can afford it. The Puuhonua Program, on the other hand, provides in-person, college credit courses through Windward Community College, and is open and accessible to anyone in the facilities where it is offered. Higher education is a right. Let's make sure that people who desire higher education can access it.

Please support HB67 and make sure that it passes with adequate budgeting.

Mahalo for your time.

Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:57:33 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| karolle t. bidgood | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing as a resident of the Windward side of Oahu to ask you to support HB67 and to ensure this important bill is passed this legislative session.

The Pu'uhonua Program helps incarcerated people develop their thinking skills and improve their workplace skills. Helping them gain meaningful employment upon their release benefits them by reducing the possibility of recidivism and generally makes our community a better place.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for your service.

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:10:34 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nancy Marker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committees:

I support HB 67 HD 1 which would allocate funds for three positions for the Pu'uhonua Program.

The program provides effective pathways for incarcerated students to grow critical thinking, career and life skills. Higher educationl oppourtunities help improve their chances for doing well and lower their risk of recidivism. The women at WCCC have greatly benefited from having courses that were supported by grants and now Pu'uhonua needs more permanent funding.

Thank you for considering the value of this program and support for HB 67 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marker

LATE

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:25:36 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support for HB67 HD1 which provides funding for three full-time positions for Windward Community College's Pu'uhonua program.

Education provides hope for a new life. And Windward Community College has been a pioneer in providing academic courses, certificates, and a pathway to further higher education for many incarcerated individuals. The amount of funding for the Pu'uhonua program will be money well spent. It will keep on giving as it helps change lives of incarcerated individuals as well as their families and communities. It is a mere pittance compared to the ever-increasing high cost of incarcerating reoffenders.

Help reduce our prison population and make our communities safer through education by funding the Pu'uhonua program via HB67 HD1.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

LATE

HB-67-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 5:51:59 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jenny Webster | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a teacher at Windward CC, but I wish to say this as an individual. I have to tell you, when I was a new instructor, I had no idea how often community college is used as a first step rehabilitation location for our recently incarcerated brothers and sisters. What I found even more surprising, however, is that often, these non-traditional students wind up being the best students in the class. More often than not, they become our valedictorians.

While I have never worked in the prisons myself, I cannot think of a better way for us, as a community, to invest in the futures of those people in prison who will likely reenter society years behind in terms of skills and understanding of technology. It is in no one's benefit to have a great portion of our population unable to function in our society. They need skills. They likely hunger for knowledge and a second chance.

We all know that prison should be a place for real opportunities at rehabilitation. Education is the key to building skills, feel capable, and identifying a direction that could lead to a meaningful life. With all my heart, I urge you to give our sisters more opportunities to be truly rehabilitated by providing more college instructors in the prisons. Recidivism is expensive for everyone. College teachers don't make that much. Choose the cheap option for a better world. Pay a teacher.