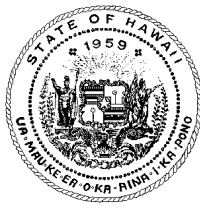


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 711
RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

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

Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Video Conference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 711, which appropriates funding to the University of Hawai'i 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 women offenders.

PSD believes a comparative study conducted by an external education entity 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 having an external education entity conduct a comparative study, PSD would like to propose adding the following language:

“Section 2. (a) The University of Hawai‘i shall 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 comparative study shall include the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS), Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) Committee members to review documents, observe program components, interactions, and interview staff and participants in order to evaluate effective practices in the delivery of range and quality programs offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State. The comparative study shall include the following:

- (1) Identification of any disparities in the range and quality of programming offered to female inmates and programming offered to male inmates;
- (2) A program assessment coordinated by PSD and if any area of improvement, range, or disparity is identified, PSD will assist the contractor in addressing area/s in need of improvement; and
- (3) Recommendations of 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 requires PSD approval and a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP).”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 711.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 711, RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ON HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Wakai and Kim and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require the University of Hawai'i 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.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 1:03:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 711.

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

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:11:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Botticelli	Testifying for Women's Prison Project	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Kim, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kidani and members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs and Higher Education,

I am writing to you as a member of the Women's Prison Project to request your approval of SB 711, which funds a University of Hawai'i study to determine if there is parity in the programs offered to incarcerated women with those offered to incarcerated men, and to determine how to fill any gaps discovered through this study.

Please support this measure.

that programs for incarcerated women are on par with those provided to incarcerated men.



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 Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

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

SB 711 – RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent on SB 711 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.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:05:03 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Rich	Testifying for Women's Prison Project	Support	In Person

Comments:

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, February 15, 2023 3:00 pm

Conference Room 225

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

Women's Prison Project strongly supports SB711 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 be executed by experienced researchers at the University of Hawaii at Manoa who are knowledgeable in the fields of criminality and rehabilitation. The study will provide a comprehensive view of programming across Hawaii's corrections system.

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. Programs that are currently effective and might be replicated in other facilities will be identified, as well as gaps in programming. 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. That is what SB711 will provide. Hawaii should focus on reducing the state's perpetually high recidivism rate and more effectively rehabilitate incarcerated women and men. 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. The Women's Prison Project is in strong support of SB711.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify

Linda Rich On Behalf of Women's Prison Project

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:59:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Lynn Babington	Testifying for Chaminade University	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB 711, Relating to Gender Parity in Programs for Incarcerated Women.

In general, there is not enough information about people in prisons, what are the root causes of their behavior and what programmatic changes can be made to curb recidivism. Hawaii Revised Statutes requires parity in the programming offered to incarcerated men and women. This legislation would require the University of Hawaii to conduct a comparative study of programming offered to both sexes and identify the equity gaps in the provision of the programming. The study should also make recommendations for potential sources of funding to facilitate parity in the programs offered to female and male inmates in the system. This information should assist in making decisions on the allocation of limited funding.

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:17:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleanna Meyer	Testifying for WPP	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou. As with SB 710 and 712, this bill for an act SB711 as three important bills to assist women offenders within the system, intends to provide a range of quality programming equivalent to the male population incarcerated. The fact that gender parity and gender responsive programs doesn't yet exist - needs to be rectified through SB711, and other bills intended to help our incarcerated women. AS an artist who has worked in the prison system with wonderful groups like KOKA, et. als. I know that continued support for our women through educational programs will afford them and society the best outcomes for all. PLEASE do support SB711. Many in the community support and thank you in advance. Any additional need to be contacted, please feel free to do so-- I can be reached at 808-375-6136. Mahalo.

Ke aloha, Meleanna Aluli Meyer- Educator, Artist

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:45:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair and Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair of the Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee; and Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee:

SB711 RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN is such an important action to take so that both women and men in our State Prison system are equally offered and provided with educational, recreational, and enrichment programs. It's important that a comparative study of all programming offered to our incarcerated populations be made to identify existing gaps, especially to female inmates. The University of Hawaii are best positioned to do this but funds are required. Please pass this important Bill.

Mahalo!

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 2:08:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill which requires the University of Hawaii 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. Requires that the study be submitted to the Legislature by 12/1/2023. Appropriates funds.

I agree with this bill and would suggest to UH that there are many groups who have accumulated data on these gaps and it might help them.

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 4:35:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Hinshaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Women's Prison Project and a Hawaii citizen, I strongly support this effort to define gaps in programs being offered to incarcerated females. There should be parity in those offerings for women and men - opportunities for women are much needed and can change lives for the better. Identifying gaps will be very helpful in learning how to correct those gaps. Mahalo for your support of this bill.

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:46:33 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elizabeth rice grossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Support SB711.

In as much as there is existing legislation that requires parity, it makes sense that we should be measuring those programs.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Rice Grossman

Kailua

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:07:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support SB711. We need to ensure that programs offered at our correctional facilities include programs for women. Funding a study of current programming can identify if and where gender equity gaps exist so changes can be made. Please vote yes on SB711. Thank you.

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, February 15, 2023 3:00 pm
Via videoconference, Conference Room
State Capitol

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

Dear Senators Wakai and Kim:

As a member of the clergy, and the Women's Prison Project, I am writing in strong support of SB 711 because I believe it is vital that women who are incarcerated be given the same opportunities at rehabilitation as the men who are incarcerated. Right now, that equality does not exist.

By our own department of public safety's December 2021 report to the legislature on gender responsive community based programs for women, **parity does not appear to exist** with respect to the range and quality of programming that is currently available to female and male inmates in the State.

I support this bill—SB 711—that authorizes the University of Hawaii to study and report to the legislature where the gaps in parity are present in the hope that the legislature will address and bring into parity those areas where services between men and women are unequal.

It is urgent that we all know where the programing for women needs to be brought up to equal status with men so that both men and women will have an equal chance at building-up their lives once they are released.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Jeannie D. Thompson
Pastor, Nu'uano Congregational Church
(808) 353-1387

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:46:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting in strong support of SB711.

SB-711

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:23:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
diane chen Koch-weser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to submit my testimony in support of measures SB710/ SB711 and SB712. I am a physician and a member of the Women's Prison Project. I have long been an advocate of women's rights and women's independence from traditional societal norms. The key to empowerment of women is educational opportunity in a safe environment and equal opportunities as those afforded to men. These three bills are particularly important steps in helping a special population of women, those who are incarcerated to achieve their independence and live productive stable lives, Their very presence in prison is often the result of a lack of education, a fair chance to succeed and/or a toxic unsafe living environment.

Please support these bills and help give these women the opportunity to prove to themselves and to the world that they can re-enter society with new skills and achieve their goals.

With respect and gratitude,

Diane Chen Koch-Weser, M.D., MPH