



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature
2023 Regular Session**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by:

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill 712, S.D. 1, Relating to Corrections.

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawai‘i. The program requires the curriculum to include a level 1 trauma-informed care course designed for adult corrections officers.

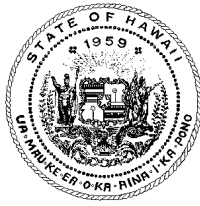
Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary SUPPORTS the intent of this measure, and recognizes the need for a trauma-informed approach across the justice system.

Many people who come into our courts have experienced trauma in their lives, which can have lasting adverse effects on long-term mental and physical health. In addition, it can influence behavior and limit an individual’s ability to effectively participate in the judicial process. Understanding trauma and implementing trauma-informed practices can improve outcomes. We regularly make training on trauma-informed care available to our judges and court staff, and are supportive of this opportunity for adult corrections officers to have a trauma-informed certification program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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
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Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 712, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

By

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and via Video Conference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 712, Senate Draft (SD) 1 which seeks to appropriate monies to Windward Community College (WCC) to support a Level I trauma-informed care certification program for Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) that is based on an existing course implemented by the WCC for mental health technicians at Hawai'i state hospital, which has already been proven successful.

PSD's ACOs may benefit from this voluntary trauma-informed care certification training in interacting with individuals in the corrections and rehabilitation system who have experienced serious trauma during their lifetime.

ACOs wishing to participate in trauma-informed care certification training would do so on their own personal time at no cost to PSD or the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 712, SD1.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 712, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Corrections
Hearing: Wednesday, February 22, 2023; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) strongly **supports** Senate Bill 712, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Adult Corrections Officers; UH; Windward Community College; and Trauma-informed Certification Program. This bill appropriates moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawai'i.

According to the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women (NRCJIW), one of the most common experiences shared by those who are incarcerated is a history of trauma. Research has shown that the effects of trauma can be significant and long lasting and are often times directly linked to the onset of substance abuse, mental health challenges, and criminal behavior. Experts recommend that all systems (medical, mental health, corrections, etc.) be trauma-informed and that professionals in these systems adopt universal precautions when working with individuals. Universal precautions require the assumption that a trauma history is present with all individuals interacted with, and to interact with them in a trauma-informed manner.

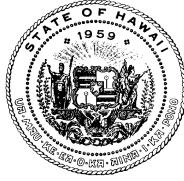
For some individuals, jails, prisons, and detention centers can further contribute to or be the source of trauma. The bright lights, loud noises, questioning by officers and staff, harsh physical handling/movement, restrictions, and sparse living quarters can be triggering. Triggers, if not handled appropriately, can result in assaults, suicide attempts, fights, and self-mutilation. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint (NCTIC), Correctional facilitates can curb trauma-reactive symptoms within their populations with the following key components of trauma-informed care:

- Recognizing the impact of trauma on multiple areas of life and different paths to recovery.

- Being aware of the signs and symptoms of trauma.
- Structuring policies and practices that account for and are sensitive to people's potential trauma histories.
- Seeking to prevent re-traumatization

The Commission believes that encouraging officers to become trauma-informed will assist the officers in understanding an individual's history of trauma, understand their responses to trauma, and recognize the pathways survivors take in navigating safety and recovery. Taking these steps is imperative to having a therapeutic and rehabilitative corrections system. For these reasons, we support this bill.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-900-2200 or at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 712, S.D. 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 225/VIDEO

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) strongly supports this
3 measure and offers comments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) provides the following
5 testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii (UH),
7 Windward Community College (WCC) to support an eight- or sixteen-week Level I trauma-
8 informed certification program during the 2023-2024 academic year at no cost to adult
9 corrections officers employed by the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

10 The Department is committed to developing a system of care that is trauma-informed.
11 This commitment includes supporting efforts to train staff on basic trauma-informed principles.
12 Trauma-informed criminal justice responses can help avoid re-traumatizing individuals.
13 According to the Adverse Child Experiences (ACE) study, exposure to abuse, neglect,
14 discrimination, violence and other adverse experiences increase an individual’s lifelong
15 potential for serious health problems and potential engagement in health-risk behaviors.

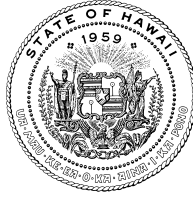
1 Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) are exposed to working conditions that can have a
2 negative impact on their health and safety. Providing support to ACOs should include
3 education that focuses on wellness and resilience, and provide core knowledge about the
4 impact of trauma on mental, physical and emotional health. This specialized training can help
5 ACOs to better manage the challenges of their job.

6 WCC established the Mental Health Technician Certificate program in Spring 2022. This
7 program provides introductory training to those entering the mental health service field.
8 Courses in psychology, conflict resolution and mediation have provided 25 graduates with
9 essential skills that directly impact their ability to perform their jobs. Of these 25 graduates, 11
10 are employed at the Hawaii State Hospital.

11 We are very aware of the impact trauma has on individuals, families and communities
12 and are ready and willing to support efforts to provide specialized training to ACOs, including
13 those working at the Women’s Community Correctional facility.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Senate Committees on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
In Support of S.B. No. 712, SD1, Relating to Corrections

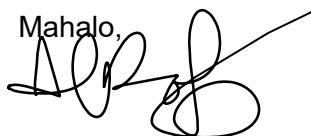
Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **SUPPORTS** S.B. No. 712, SD1, Relating to Corrections.

Established through Act 291, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, OWR will address barriers and build wellness and resilience through trauma-informed, strengths-based strategies and support agencies in their efforts to address trauma-informed care and move toward a collaborative, shared purpose of collective system reform.

The Act 209 Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021) is currently developing a trauma-informed care framework for the state and the OWR will be working to implement this framework. Additionally, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health is currently offering the first course at a Hawai'i state university on trauma-informed care in the Master of Social Work program. As the executive director of the OWR, having been the recent chair of the TIC Task Force and assisted in the development of the syllabus for the UHM TIC course, I am very interested to collaborate and help support the development of this certification program. The OWR is dedicated to establishing a coordinated approach on how trauma-informed care is being implemented throughout the state.

As negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to show up in our daily lives, implementing trauma-informed approaches and responses throughout our state practices is critical. The OWR supports the purpose of SB712, SD1, to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at Windward community college.

Mahalo,


Tia L R Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Executive Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Della Teraoka, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

SB 712 SD1 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 712 SD1, which creates a Trauma Informed Care Course designed for Adult Corrections Officers (ACO's) taught by Windward Community College (WCC).

This coursework, deeper than a short training, is urgently needed. According to the Center for Disease Control, 97% of inmates have had at least one traumatic childhood experience. A large national study found that 40.1% of female inmates and 17.8% of male inmates suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Other studies have found 30% of male inmates have current PTSD symptoms and 60% have lifetime PTSD. Incarceration compounds potential trauma related issues, as it is an environment where the incarcerated feel a lack of personal control over situations and their own safety. Due to this, individuals may remain in a constant state high alert due to concern for personal safety and may be triggered by perceived threats and actions and/or interactions which remind them of past trauma. This can lead to inappropriate responses, including aggression, violence, anxiety, depression, and self-harm. Suicide is the leading cause of jail deaths nationwide. These impacts of trauma create a negative environment for the incarcerated individual, fellow prisoners, and the prison staff.

Trauma Informed coursework helps those serving incarcerated populations to better manage this population through understanding the impact of trauma. ACO's will be provided information on the lifelong effects of trauma, recovery needs, and implementation of trauma-focused treatment interventions, including evidence based best practice. Trauma triggers and examples of calming and grounding strategies will be discussed to help staff conduct their work more effectively and with less frustration. Vicarious trauma impacting correctional staff and suggestions for self-care will also be explored. Through this deeper exploration, those completing the coursework become best equipped to handle difficult situations that arise and support their coworkers.

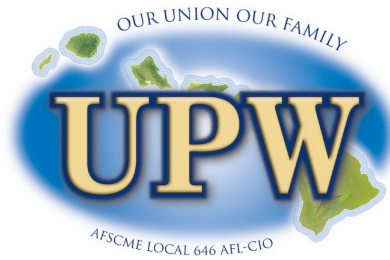
WCC is able to offer this course statewide both online and through a hub and spoke model in partnership with sister community colleges. The coursework can be completed in asynchronous, online classes, which can be taken at the employees' convenience and do not require a specific time in class or a specific location. Classes could also be offered in person at given facilities requesting this.

WCC has the expertise to offer this in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (PSD). The program is based on our Mental Health Technician certificate developed in collaboration with the Hawai'i State Hospital and specific to the needs of workers and their context here in Hawai'i. WCC has been providing significant credit-based college education to incarcerated students since 2017.

This Trauma Informed Care Coursework positively impacts the prison environment for both workers and incarcerated individuals. This can have further positive impacts on retaining staffing due to decreased workplace frustration. This is important given the high turnover and staffing insufficiencies faced by PSD.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 712 SD1, as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 712 SD1.



**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SB712, SD1 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) **strongly supports** SB712, which appropriates moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers (“ACOs”) at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawaii. This bill also requires the curriculum to include a Level I trauma-informed care course designed for ACOs.

As the exclusive bargaining representative for the correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, UPW recognizes that a significant proportion of the individuals in Hawaii’s correctional facilities have experienced serious trauma during their lifetimes. The establishment of a Level 1 trauma-informed certification program would allow ACOs to better recognize the symptoms of trauma exhibited by inmates. Training in trauma-informed care could also be beneficial in allowing ACOs to recognize signs of work-related trauma displayed by their co-workers.

While we strongly support the proposed training offered to ACOs free of charge, UPW would like to note that there are challenges ACOs would need to overcome to access this certification program. Due to current staffing shortages and mandatory overtime, ACOs would likely be unable to regularly attend courses proposed in the bill without the support of and consideration from the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kalani Werner
State Director



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2023
TIME: 9:30 AM, Via Videoconference & Conference Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 712 SD1 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

[Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice](#) (HFRJ) strongly supports this measure appropriating funds necessary for Windward Community College (WCC) to create and provide a trauma informed certification program for adult correctional offices.

HFRJ has studied best practices [for youth](#) since 1980. In 2004 HFRJ began studying and working with state adult prisons working to develop evidence based knowledge and what works to [decrease incarceration](#) and increase peaceful behavior. HFRJ's experiences working in the prisons indicate that incarcerated people in Hawai'i suffer from a disproportionate share of [childhood abuse, neglect, and trauma](#). This is true for [other states](#) as well.

This bill would give WCC the means to create and provide a "level I trauma-informed certification program" for state adult correctional officers (ACOs). This would be for officers who *volunteer for the training*. While the state should require all ACOs to have knowledge about trauma informed care because most incarcerated people have experienced significant trauma, this program is for those ACOs who actively seek out more specialized training.

There are important differences in programs and learning when one is required to learn something compared to when one chooses to learn something, and earn a certification based on their individual efforts. A college certification is proposed here, which is different from mandating and requiring someone to learn something. This difference was discussed when continuing education was originally [suggested for nurses over 40 years ago](#): *Requirements for voluntary continuing education programs are higher than those required by most licensing boards to meet their mandatory requirements. This is because it is a recognition program, and the recognition represents an achievement beyond the minimal requirements established by licensing boards.*

The ACOs that choose to earn this trauma-informed certification would likely become assets to the Department of Public Safety (PSD) in role modeling the value in learning this vital subject. They would also provide specialized information to other ACOs and staff who know only what PSD requires them to learn. If PSD were most concerned with advancing trauma informed care in its institutions, it would give the ACOs who earned this certification pay increases.

Hawai'i in general [lacks training](#) opportunities for corrections professionals and especially in trauma informed care, which is vital for assisting incarcerated people and for those who work with them. Our state jails and prisons are our [de facto mental institutions](#). Corrections professionals need special skills to help the incarcerated. These skills can also help keep correctional staff and others safe while performing their duties. This measure would help address important needs and create a more rehabilitative and professional environment by creating a voluntary certification program.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's support or would like more details about our testimony, please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712.



The Committee on Ways and Means
9:30AM, February 22, 2023
Room 211 & Videoconference

RE: **SB 712, SD1, Relating to Corrections**

Attention: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the
Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to
testify **supporting the intent of SB 712, SD1**, Relating to Corrections.

SB712, SD1 establishes a level I trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections
officers. Establishment of this certification program will provide correction officers the essential
training needed to assess and interact with persons who have experienced trauma. Doing so
will thereby create a better overall environment for all parties, reducing disciplinary infractions
and improving rehabilitation.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Website: www.uhpa.org



LATE

SB712 SD1 Train Correction Officers about Trauma
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023: 9:30 : Room 211 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB712 SD1

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery services.

Several states, including WCCC, report positive results in training correction officers.¹

- Massachusetts Correctional Institute
 - Trained all staff on trauma informed approaches,
 - Implemented a Peer Support group,
 - Implemented an Intensive Mental Health Crisis program.
- Hawaii WCCC
 - Changed physical environment with a trauma lens framework,
 - Educated staff and women offenders about trauma and the effects of trauma.
- Massachusetts Framingham Facility
 - Created sensory rooms.
 - Implemented five core values of trauma-informed-care: Safety, Choice, Trustworthiness, Collaboration, and Empowerment,.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Each institution experienced notable **decrease in inmate on inmate and staff on inmate for assaults, the use of segregation, use of restraints, suicide attempts, and the need for suicide watch.**

TIC has also empowered incarcerated individuals, and helped build coping skills when triggered. Correctional officers (CO) are more informed and operate from a trauma lens, with this approach CO's are building relationships with incarcerated individuals.

¹ Corrections/Trauma Informed CARE: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://traumainformedoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Corrections-Trauma-Informed-Care-infographic.pdf](https://traumainformedoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Corrections-Trauma-Informed-Care-infographic.pdf)

SB-712-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:37:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB712 SD1. Mahalo.

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM, Via Videoconference & Conference Room 211

State Capitol

Re: Testimony in Support of SB712 SD1 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Aloha esteemed Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the committee,

My name is Traci K. Enriquez, and I am a social work student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. I am testifying in support of SB712 SD1, Relating to Corrections, which would appropriate funds to enable Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) to obtain a trauma-informed certification provided by Windward Community College (WCC).

As a BSW student and a spouse to an ACO, I believe it is imperative to establish a Level 1 trauma-informed certification program that would allow ACOs to identify the symptoms and impact of trauma exhibited by inmates and provide trauma-specific interventions appropriate for the correctional facility setting.¹ The magnitude in which individuals in Correctional Facilities have experienced traumatic life events is substantial; 64% of the U.S. population endures at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE), and 97% of incarcerated individuals endures at least one ACE.² In obtaining education on trauma-informed care, ACOs will be better equipped to increase pro-social coping skills among incarcerated individuals. Which in turn aids in creating a calm and safe environment, promoting staff morale, and leading to improved rehabilitation outcomes.

I am testifying in full support of SB712 SD1, while acknowledging the challenges and obstacles ACOs may face in obtaining the trauma-informed certification due to staffing shortages and difficulty allocating time to attend such courses. Nevertheless, establishing a trauma-informed certification program will be beneficial in facilitating an environment conducive to the rehabilitation and decreased recidivism of individuals in Hawai'i Correctional Facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Traci K. Enriquez

Tka6220@gmail.com

References

¹Miller, N. A., & Najavits, L. M. (2012). Creating trauma-informed correctional care: a balance of goals and environment. *European journal of psychotraumatology*, 3, 10.3402/ejpt.v3i0.17246. <https://doi.org/10.3402/ejpt.v3i0.17246>

²*Childhood trauma statistics*. Compassion Prison Project. (2022, October 18). Retrieved February 20, 2023, from <https://compassionprisonproject.org/childhood-trauma-statistics/>