

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 712
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

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

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 712, 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.



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

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

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

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 712, Relating to Corrections
Hearing: Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

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

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) strongly **supports** Senate Bill 712, 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 facilities 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.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

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

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 p.m.
State Capitol
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by:

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

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

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to establish a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawai‘i. The bill appropriates funds.

Judiciary’s Position:

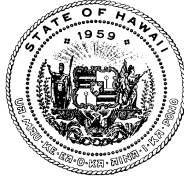
The Judiciary SUPPORTS the intent of this measure, and recognizes the need for a trauma-informed approach across the justice system.

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

Senate Bill No. 712, Relating to Corrections
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Page 2

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.



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
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 3 p.m. in 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,

1 discrimination, violence and other adverse experiences increase an individual's lifelong
2 potential for serious health problems and potential engagement in health-risk behaviors.

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

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

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

16 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



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

SB 712 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 712, 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.

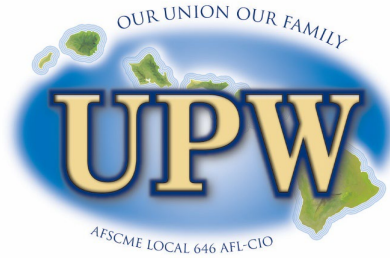
WCC is able to offer this course statewide both online and through a hub and spoke model in partnership with sister community colleges. The coursework can be completed in asynchronous, online classes, which can be taken at the employees' convenience and do not require a specific time in class or a specific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



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

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 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SB712 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chairs Wakai and Kim, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kidani, 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

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

Senate: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs
Committee on Higher Education
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m., February 15, 2023
Location: State Capitol
Re: SB 712, Relating to Corrections

Aloha e Chair Wakai, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committees:

We are writing in **support of** SB 712, Relating to Corrections.

This bill will 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 and require the curriculum to include a level I trauma-informed care course designed for adult corrections officers.

The majority, if not all, of those in correctional facilities suffer from trauma of some sort. The people who interact with those in the facilities the most, the corrections officers, should have adequate training and be educated on trauma-informed care.

Our collective, Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i (OYAH), works to support young people under the age of 25 who are disconnected from school and work, referred to as "opportunity youth." This developmental time period is extremely consequential to the individual growth and overall life chances of our children. **We support this measure.**

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB 712.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:00:46 PM

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 712, Relating to Corrections

Corrections personnel who are educated to properly assess and interact with persons who have experienced trauma are better able to work with those individuals. A significant proportion of individuals in the correctional system have experienced serious trauma. This legislation would create trauma-informed care courses which could be offered to adult corrections officers at no cost. Upon completion of the courses, the officers would be eligible for a certificate. ACO training in the handling of individuals who have experienced serious trauma could augment their basic training and might assist in better outcomes in the interactions they have with the prison population.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:08:04 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

Via videoconference, Conference Room

State Capitol

STRONG SUPPORT SB712 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports SB712 which would establish a basic trauma Informed care course designed for Adult Corrections officers and provided by Windward Community College (WCC). WCC has previously designed and successfully implemented a similar course for mental health workers at the Hawaii State Hospital.

The 2019 HCR 85 TASK FORCE report to the legislature addressed the need for trauma informed corrections staff, especially in the Women's Community Correctional System.

“Due to the high prevalence of trauma among incarcerated women, correctional staff need to be trained in and practice a high level of trauma-informed care (TIC). An environment that supports post traumatic growth provides important opportunities for positive change.”

Research has consistently found that a high percentage of incarcerated persons have experienced extensive trauma, often since childhood. The prevalence of trauma, including sexual assault and abuse is particularly high among women. Traumatized individuals are often easily triggered by

interactions and procedures that raise feelings and memories associated with past trauma, especially in an environment where others have power and control over them. This can lead to aggression and resistance or to depression, anxiety and suicidality, affecting the safety of both staff and the inmates themselves.

It is now considered a standard best practice in settings working with vulnerable populations, to view persons and the impact of the environment, including the actions of personnel, through the lens of trauma. By understanding the impact of trauma and approaching interactions and procedures in a trauma informed manner, the rate of re-traumatization and the incidence of aggressive or self-harming behavior can be reduced. Trauma Informed environments and staff are more successful at rehabilitation. Incarcerated individuals who feel respected and emotionally safe act out less and are more open to learning new behaviors. Trauma Informed responses are important to reducing recidivism. Hawaii's recidivism rate is among the highest in the country. If Hawaii's corrections system is to move toward a more rehabilitative approach, trauma informed training of staff is necessary.

Women's Prison Project urges the legislature to pass SB712 and invest in a more effective corrections system by appropriating the funds to initiate this Trauma Informed Care Training for the Adult Corrections Officers who interact daily with the people in Hawaii's prisons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Rich on behalf of Women's Prison Project

On Behalf of Women's Prison Project.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:42:24 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 kākou;

I'm submitting testimony in support of **SB712**, like the two earlier bills, this bill for an act extends what SB710 and SB711 intend to do- support our incarcerated women with programs and options to assist them and their families to improve their circumstances and overall health of body, mind, and spirit.

SB712 concretely supports developing a level 1 trauma certification program to ensure that the State's corrections professionals are properly trained in trauma-informed care. SB712 is a necessary step towards alleviating and improving treatment for incarcerated females and (males). Your continued support for this important work of SB712 is deeply appreciated.

With gratitude,

Meleanna Aluli Meyer



The Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and International Affairs
&
The Committee on Higher Education
February 15, 2023
Room 225, 3:00PM

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

Attention: Chairs Glenn Wakai and Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committees

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

SB712 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



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023
TIME: 3:00 PM, Via Videoconference & Conference Room 225

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB712 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. I am Diana Bethel, Phd, coordinator for HFRJ's instructors who support peer tutors in HFRJ's higher and continuing education pilot project at WCCC.

HFRJ has studied best practices [for youth](#) since then. 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 and with youth, indicates that incarcerated people in Hawai'i suffer from a disproportionate share of [childhood abuse, neglect, and trauma](#). This 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 chose 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 pro- grams 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 chose 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 and they would provide real information to others who know only what PSD required 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 prison 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 more details about the program please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:14:07 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 a member of the Women's Prison Project and am testifying in support of SB 712, which provides funding for a Level-1 Trauma Informed Certification Program for adult corrections officer. This program would be based on an existing, beneficial program at the Hawai'i State Hospital.

Please support SB 712.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 4:30:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because so many incarcerated people have experienced trauma, it is imperative that those charged with treating them be trained in trauma-informed care. This is a vital program that needs to be supported.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:27:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please support SB712.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:26:45 AM

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

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

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB712 which provides funding for a program to provide Hawaii's Correction Officers (CO) with training critical to their work with inmates. Trauma identification and treatment should be an integral part of CO training and the funding provided in SB712 enables Windward Community College to provide that essential and important training.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of SB712.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:59:02 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 SB 712

In as much as most, if not all, incarcerated women have experienced trauma in their lifetimes, it makes sense that a Level 1 Trauma-Informed Certification would benefit both the inmates and the correction professionals.

Administration by Windward Community College makes sense as they have the experience and have been successful in implementation.

I am a member the Women's Prison Project and I urge you to support SB712.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Rice Grossman

Kailua

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:15:02 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 SB712. Hawaii correction officers need up to date training. Funding trauma-informed learning is an investment in our corrections staff so they can truly help the folx in their care. Please vote yes on SB712. 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 SB712 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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 712 because I believe it is important for the state's corrections professionals to have this tool.

As the legislature's own studies have found: a significant proportion of the individuals in the corrections and rehabilitation system have experienced serious trauma during their lifetimes.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the legislature address this issue by providing corrections professionals in the state's employ with training that will help them assess and interact with such people who have had such experiences. I believe this will make both the corrections professionals' and the women and men who are incarcerated more safe in one another's company.

Moreover, people who have a background of trauma who are treated by someone with training will have a much better chance of coming out of incarceration with a healthier attitude and mindset.

Safety and peace of mind: I believe this is something we all want. Please pass SB 712.

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

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 4:56:19 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 an educator, I strongly support this bill to create a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers. They need training so they can do the best job they can. Without training, they will be ill-equipped to support the many traumatized women currently incarcerated. Better informed corrections officers will have a positive impact on creating a better future for the incarcerated women they help. Mahalo for supporting this bill.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:44:58 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 SB712.

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 SB712 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports SB712 which would establish a basic trauma Informed care course designed for Adult Corrections officers and provided by Windward Community College (WCC). WCC has previously designed and successfully implemented a similar course for mental health workers at the Hawaii State Hospital.

The 2019 HCR 85 TASK FORCE report to the legislature addressed the need for trauma informed corrections staff, especially in the Women's Community Correctional System.

“Due to the high prevalence of trauma among incarcerated women, correctional staff need to be trained in and practice a high level of trauma-informed care (TIC). An environment that supports post traumatic growth provides important opportunities for positive change.”

- Safety
- Trustworthiness and transparency
- Peer Support
- Collaboration and mutuality
- Empowerment, voice, and choice
- Culture, historical, and gender issues

Research has consistently found that a high percentage of incarcerated persons have experienced extensive trauma, often since childhood. The prevalence of trauma, including sexual assault and abuse is particularly high among women. Traumatized individuals are often easily triggered by interactions and procedures that raise feelings and memories associated with past trauma, especially in an environment where others have power and control over them. This can lead to aggression and resistance or to depression, anxiety and suicidality, affecting the safety of both staff and the inmates themselves.

It is now considered a standard best practice in settings working with vulnerable populations, to view persons and the impact of the environment, including the actions of personnel, through the lens of trauma. By understanding the impact of trauma and approaching interactions and procedures in a

trauma informed manner, the rate of re-traumatization and the incidence of aggressive or self harming behavior can be reduced. Trauma Informed environments and staff are more successful at rehabilitation. Incarcerated individuals who feel respected and emotionally safe act out less and are more open to learning new behaviors. Trauma Informed responses are important to reducing recidivism. Hawaii's recidivism rate is among the highest in the country. It is time to seriously

If Hawaii's correction system is to move toward a more rehabilitative approach, trauma informed training of staff is necessary.

Women's Prison Project urges the legislature pass SB712 and invest in a more effective corrections system by appropriating the funds to initiate this Trauma Informed Care Training for the Adult Corrections Officers who interact daily with the people in Hawaii's prisons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Rich

On Behalf of Women's Prison project.

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:08:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support the funding for Windward Community College to provide "trauma-informed coursework" for corrections officers. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you.



Adult Friends for Youth

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Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, M.S.W.

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Testimony on SB710 Relating to Incarcerated Women and SB712 Relating to Corrections

Submitted to: Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon JC Elefante, Vice Chair

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

Submitted by: Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, M.S.W.
President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth

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

I support SB710 Relating to Incarcerated Women and SB712 Relating to Corrections

My name is Debbie Spencer-Chun, President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth (AFY).

I am also a member of the Women Prison Project that has worked tirelessly to improve the welfare of women who are incarcerated. My reason for joining this group was simple - many of our youth that we service have incarcerated parents. We need to stop the cycle of incarceration from all angles so we will have healthier, thriving families, as well as communities. AFY believes in the power of education to help redirect the lives of our young people from destructive to constructive behaviors. We also believe that if we have educated and healthier moms – we will have educated and healthier children.

These bills will:

- Provide an opportunity for these women to obtain their GED which is just a stepping stone to achieving many other goals and allowing them to regain the confidence they need to successfully reintegrate into the community.
- Provide an opportunity for the staff to gain a better understanding as to the reasons behind these women's pre-incarcerated behaviors which will hopefully allow the staff to support them on their journey of healing. It will also help bring self-awareness for the staff to identify any trauma they may have and help them to also heal in order to be more effective service providers.

For these reasons I support Bills.... and humbly ask for your support too.

Mahalo

Debbie Spencer-Chun

SB-712

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:55:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
diane chen Koch-weser	Testifying for Women's Prison Project	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.

Respectfully and Thank You,

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