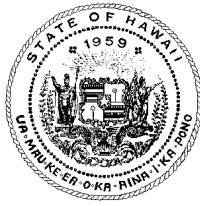


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2094 S.D. 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

by

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2024; 10:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) strongly supports Senate Bill (SB) 2094 S.D. 1, which requires the department to establish a one-year pilot program to allow inmates incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) to foster pets while incarcerated and appropriate funds. This measure also requires the DCR to submit a report to the legislature of the department's findings and recommendations regarding the pilot program no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

The DCR thanks the legislature for its interest and support in exploring innovative program initiatives and looks forward to moving this pilot program forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2094 S.D. 1.

SB-2094-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:44:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Animal Welfare Institute	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair DelaCruz and WAM Committee Members,

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB2094 SD1 to initiate a pilot program with the Department of Corrections to allow the fostering and care of pet animals in need, in coordination with local animal shelters and rescue organizations.

In my 20+ years of work in animal protection, I have seen the direct benefits of these programs, for human and animal alike, through similar prison pet partnership programs in Idaho, Arizona, Washington and Louisiana, and although the many states have long had such programs in place. In addition to providing pets in need with necessary care and socialization, these programs provide occupational/work opportunities to inmates who often go on to work with animals in a variety of fields, including in veterinary care and animal shelters.

We encourage your support of this measure that equally benefits people, pets and communities.

Thank you,

Inga Gibson, On behalf of Animal Welfare Institute



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 11, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Sen. Sharon Moriwaki
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2094: Relating to Corrections
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, 10:05 a.m., Room 211 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 2094, which requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a one-year pilot program to allow inmates incarcerated at the women's community correctional center to foster pets while incarcerated; requires DCR to submit a report to the Legislature; declares that the general expenditure ceiling is exceeded; and appropriates funds.

Hawaiian Humane's mission is to promote the human-animal bond and the humane treatment of all animals. We hope this pilot program will be a demonstration of that mission in action.

Foster care saves animal lives. Kittens need time to grow before they can be spayed/neutered and find permanent homes. Ill or injured animals need a place to recover. With an average of 50 animals coming to Hawaiian Humane for help every day, we could not address all their needs without the help of dedicated foster volunteers.

Caring for animals can also save human lives. The unconditional love and vulnerability of an animal companion teach compassion and responsibility like few other things we can do in life. They need us and being needed can be transformative.

Please lend your support to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by passing this measure and providing the seed funding needed to launch this pilot. Mahalo for your consideration.



Hawai'i

Committee: Ways and Means
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13 at 10:05am
Place: Room 211 & Videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i IN SUPPORT of SB2094 SD1 Relating to Corrections

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SB2094 SD1**, which requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) to establish a one-year pilot program to allow inmates incarcerated at the women's community correctional center to foster pets while incarcerated, requires DCR to submit a report to the Legislature, and appropriates funds.

The ACLU of Hawai'i is committed to Reimagining Public Safety in Hawai'i. We advocate for the State to divert people from our jails and prisons and shift resources toward housing, education, health and human services in our community.

There is significant data to support the potential positive outcomes this bill could establish.¹ Pets can and often do have positive effects on mood and overall outlook. They can also help reduce stress.

As it relates to ACLU of Hawai'i's Smart Justice goals of reducing Hawai'i's jail and prison populations², there is strong evidence that programs like the one established in this bill can help improve personal responsibility, self-esteem, and work ethics. All of which are important personal skills which can increase post-incarceration readiness for employment and can reduce recidivism.

For all these reasons, we urge the committee to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Josh Frost

Josh Frost
Policy Assistant
ACLU of Hawai'i
jfrost@acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

¹ A New Leash on Life: Benefits of Dog Training Programs in Prisons:
<https://lsj.washington.edu/research/undergraduate/new-leash-life-benefits-dog-training-programs-prisons>

² Blueprint for Smart Justice Hawai'i: https://www.acluhawaii.org/sites/default/files/SJ-Blueprint-HI_1.pdf



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2094, SD1 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW provides comments on SB2094, which requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“DCR”) to establish a two-year pilot program to allow inmates incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center (“WCCC”) to foster pets while incarcerated. This bill also requires DCR to submit a report to the Legislature and appropriate funds to DCR for program implementation.

Without specific details, UPW cannot comment on the merits of the proposed program, nor are we able to theorize how such a program will impact the individuals incarcerated at WCCC. However, we believe that current staffing levels are not adequate to support the current programs at WCCC. We are concerned with how an additional program, one that involves the care for pets, will ultimately impact the duties and responsibilities of adult corrections officers that are assigned to this facility.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
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KAUAI

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Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only

SB-2094-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:50:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mamiko Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2094 SD1, Relating to Corrections
Hearing February 13, 2024, 10:05 a.m. Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 2094 SD1.

Mamiko Carroll
Senate District 23

LATE

SB-2094-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:13:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LYNN Y MURAMARU	Testifying for Pacific Pet Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Pacific Pet Alliance fully supports passage of this bill as it recognizes the significant positive impact of the human-companion animal bond.

The Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully requests this committee to pass this bill.

Lynn Muramaru

Board Member

Pacific Pet Alliance