

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 15 2025

RE: H.C.R. No. 153

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, to
which was referred H.C.R. No. 153 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO INCREMENTALLY AND
SYSTEMATICALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INMATES INCARCERATED IN
PRIVATE, OUT-OF-STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to incrementally and
systematically reduce the number of inmates incarcerated in
private, out-of-state correctional facilities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Hawaii
Correctional System Oversight Commission, ACLU Hawai'i, Kauai
Women's Caucus, Reimagining Public Safety, Nā 'Ōpio Waiwai, Abolish
Private Prisons, Faith Action for Community Equity, and forty-four
individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this
measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that one of the most critical components
of successful rehabilitation and reintegration into society for
incarcerated persons is maintaining strong ties with family and
community. Research consistently shows that individuals who



sustain familial relationships during incarceration experience lower recidivism rates and better post-release outcomes. When Hawaii inmates are housed on the continent, the financial and logistical burdens on families, including the cost of travel, time off work, and lodging, often render in-person visitation impossible. This forced separation exacerbates emotional distress, weakens family bonds, and deprives individuals of a key stabilizing force necessary for their successful reintegration. Accordingly, this measure requests the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to systematically phase out the housing of incarcerated individuals in private, out-of-state prisons to reduce recidivism and reconnect families.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 153, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs,



BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|---------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HCR 153</div> | Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">PSM</div> | Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">4-11-25</div> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____ | | | | |
| The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div> | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| WAKAI, Glenn (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| FUKUNAGA, Carol | ✓ | | | |
| RHOADS, Karl | ✓ | | | |
| DECORTE, Samantha | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div> | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: _____ | | | | |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> Distribution: Original File with Committee Report </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Yellow Clerk's Office </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Pink Drafting Agency </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Goldenrod Committee File Copy </div> </div> | | | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes