

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

294

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 823
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans, to which was referred H.B. No. 823 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEATHS WITHIN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Expand the scope of inmate deaths that are reported to the Governor and Legislature;
- (2) Require the reports of inmate deaths to be published on the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's website;
- (3) Clarify the information to be included in the reports; and
- (4) Mandate public access to certain information within those reports.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center, Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i, Community Alliance on Prisons, The Civil Beat Law Center for the

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Public Interest, Civil Rights Corps, and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Public Safety.

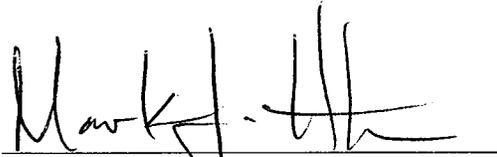
Your Committee finds that inmates in state or state-contracted correctional facilities have died while incarcerated with questions surrounding their cause of death. Additionally, information about these deaths is not informative or transparent. This measure is a critical step toward helping the public better understand potential systemic shortcomings that may continue to keep the State's criminal justice system unsafe and will increase transparency and accountability.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 823, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 823, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Corrections,
Military & Veterans,


MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



