STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1137

Honolulu, Hawaii

## MAR 1 8 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 20

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 S.C.R. No. 20 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO COMPREHENSIVELY REEVALUATE ITS POLICIES REGARDING IN-PERSON CONTACT VISITATION AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO BEST SUPPORT INCARCERATED PERSONS IN STAYING CONNECTED WITH LOVED ONES WHO CAN HELP THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY OF REHABILITATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to comprehensively reevaluate its policies regarding in-person contact visitation at correctional facilities throughout the State to best support incarcerated persons in staying connected with loved ones who can help them on their journey of rehabilitation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission and one individual.

Your Committee finds that some correctional facilities in the State prohibit in-person contact visitation, requiring incarcerated persons and their visitors to be separated by a barrier such as a pane of glass during visits. According to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission, in-person contact

visitation has been shown to significantly lower recidivism rates and encourage positive behavior within correctional facilities. Your Committee further finds that requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reassess its position on inperson contact visitation at all state correctional facilities would align with the best interests of both incarcerated individuals undergoing rehabilitation and their loved ones.

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 S.C.R. No. 20 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.:*  | Committee |     | Da   |             | -       |
|--|-----------|-----|--|-------------|---------|
| SUM 20   | PSI       | 1   |  | 3/10/       | 25      |
| The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  |           |     |  |             |         |
| If so, then the previous decision was to:  |           |     |  |             |         |
| The Recommendation is:   |           |     |  |             |         |
| Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313  |           |     |  |             |         |
| Members  |           | Aye | Aye (WR)                                     | Nay         | Excused |
| ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (C)   |           |     |  |             |         |
| WAKAI, Glenn (VC)  |           | V/  |  |             |         |
| FUKUNAGA, Carol  |           |     |  |             |         |
| RHOADS, Karl   |           | V/_ |  |             |         |
| DECORTE, Samantha  | V         |     |  |             |         |
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| TOTAL  |           |     |  | 4           | 40      |
| Recommendation:  Adopted  Not Adopted  |           |     |  |             |         |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:   |           |     |  |             |         |
| Distribution: Original ellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Ciells Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy |           |     |  |             |         |

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes