



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CORRECTIONS

Shawn H. Tsuha
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 840, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 840, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which would require the Department of Public Safety to construct a multi-story correctional facility at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) to replace the existing Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and which would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and to appropriate funds for the planning, design, and construction of the multi-story correctional facility.

The PSD would like to ask the Committee's consideration of the following amendment to HB 840, HD1, SD1, on Page 3, Line 7:

"...secure, ~~minimum to medium security~~ multi-security level community correctional facility..."

The suggested amendment would allow for a portion of the current OCCC population (Maximum Custody) that is currently inappropriately housed at the HCF, to be properly housed amongst the rest of the jail/detention population of the OCCC. Further, it would allow for the entirety of the OCCC sentenced felony Furlough program (Community Custody) to continue to be programmatically included in the new replacement facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice Chair Ronald Kouchi

FROM: Lisa Cates, Individual DATE: March 31, 2015

RE: **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB840 HD1, SD1**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Lisa Cates and I am testifying in strong support of HB840 that will require preliminary design and proposals for a new correctional treatment facility and appropriate funding.

More than 90% of all indexed crime in Hawaii is a property crime, which includes theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft and car break-ins. Individuals that are dealing with drug addiction commit the majority of property crimes. Although Drug Court and HOPE Probation have been successful in some cases, there are those individuals that are not able to get the help they really need under limited State supervision.

When HPD is arresting the same individuals 50-100 times for theft and burglary, there is a problem. The individual that broke into my home had over 70 prior arrests.

Repeat violators of probation conditions often times result in probation modification rather than revocation, leading to a systematic game of catch-and-release. Of course no one wants to incarcerate someone for breaking into a car, but what about that person who has been arrested for that crime 20 times? The current practices of our criminal justice system is contributing to a growing population of drug addicted career criminals that are continuously arrested and then released on probation back into our communities. Our judicial system has essentially become an enabler for a thieving addict.

Therefore, a secure, correctional treatment facility is what we need in Hawaii to help those chronic individuals. Rehabilitation and perhaps vocational training or educational programs will help to kick start these individuals towards a purposeful life before its too late.

Please pass HB840.

Mahalo,
Lisa Cates