

DAVID Y. IGE  
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DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2375 – RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.**

Hearing: February 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill, offers comments, and requests clarification. The Department defers to the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill requires the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work. Requires progress reports on the program to the legislature. Appropriates funds.

The Department agrees there is a statewide shortage of social workers. Given the continuing stress and impacts of the pandemic, the need for social workers and mental health providers will increase. The Department knows that employment is a strong protective factor against recidivism, and incarcerated individuals may bring with them lived experience expertise that could be useful in the social work field.

The Department is aware of models where incarcerated individuals may gain high school diplomas and college credits while incarcerated. These models generally have strong leadership from higher education. The Department will collaborate with PSD, higher education,

and other organizations on this innovative proposal; however, DHS requests clarification as to the scope of the expected involvement of DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2375

**February 24, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2375 amends Chapter 353H, HRS, and does the following:

1) require the Department of Public Safety (PSD), in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work; 2) require progress reports on the program to the Legislature; and 3) appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds to PSD for FY 23 for the development of the program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2375  
RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.**

by  
**Max N. Otani, Director**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022; 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill (SB) 2375, seeks to require the Department of Public Safety (PSD), in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS), to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated non-violent individuals in the area of social work. If enacted, this measure would also require PSD to provide progress reports to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2023 and 2024 Legislative sessions. In addition, the measure appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for this initiative.

PSD acknowledges the thoughtfulness of this initiative and offers the following comments. Specifically, the Department notes that petty misdemeanants serve jail terms of up to 30 days and misdemeanants serve jail terms of up to 1 year. Therefore, these categories of non-violent offenders are not in the custody and/or under the jurisdiction of PSD long enough to complete the required 4-years of college to earn social work degrees.

Testimony on Senate Bill 2375  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 24, 2022  
Page 2

In addition, by policy, incarcerated offenders under the jurisdiction of PSD cannot provide case management counseling for other offenders under the Department's jurisdiction. Moreover, contracting with higher educational institutions is very costly and may cause financial losses to the State if offenders do not complete the required 4-year social work degree program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2375.



## **SB2375 Offender Education for Social Work**

### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, Feb 24 2022: 10:00 am : Videoconference

## **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2375:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.*

There could be potential here.

A successful candidate for social work starts with education and includes:

1. Empathy, communication, organization
2. Commitment, ethics, patience
3. Active listening, critical thinking, cultural competence
4. Self-care, organization, and
5. Willingness to be trained and developed.

Successful reentry contains these elements *if needed*:

- 1. Substance use disorder treatment or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment**
- 2. Mental health treatment (no substance abuse)**
- 3. Criminality programs to change attitudes and beliefs about crime.**
- 4. Housing**
- 5. Family reunification**
- 6. Employment and/or Education**
- 7. Support from Probation/Parole**
- 8. Case management as needed.**
- 9. Healthcare**
- 10. Mentoring**

Reentry is a highly cost-effective investment. Aloha, HSAC

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 24, 2022

10:00 AM

## SB 2375 – SUPPORT w/ AMENDMENT: SOCIAL WORK TRAINING

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,052 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,111 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2375 requires the department of public safety to collaborate with the department of human services to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent persons in the area of social work.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this program as a wonderful idea. Our only concern is that it is only to be offered to misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants who are usually in jail serving one year or less. Is this enough time to adequately train an individual in the sensitive area of social work?

Our amendment would offer this great program to all incarcerated persons who are serving sentences of more than one year. Section 2 of the bill would, therefore, be amended to read: SECTION 2. Chapter 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows: "§353H-Incarcerated individuals; social work training program; established. (a) The department shall develop and establish a program, in collaboration with the department of human services, to train nonviolent ~~misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants~~ **incarcerated persons** in the area of social work to become eligible for employment as assistants to licensed social workers or individuals on a pathway to be a licensed social worker.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and considering our amendment.

Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful for the chance to testify in support of this bill with our amendment.



**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 24, 2022 - 10:00am - via videoconference

**Testimony in Support with Comments Seeking Clarifications in SB2375 RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK**

The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) supports SB2375, which would require the Departments of Public Safety and Human Services to coordinate to establish a program to train nonviolent, incarcerated individuals in the area of social work.

NASW-HI greatly appreciates the spirit and intent of this measure, which would encourage misdemeanants, with valuable life experience interfacing with social service organizations, to train and pursue employment opportunities in the area of social work, once released. However, we respectfully request that the language in the bill be revised so that it does not imply that a license in social work - requiring a masters degree including practicum experience, as well as a licensure exam, can be accomplished via apprenticeship through this program.

Accordingly, NASW-HI respectfully the following amendment to page 2, lines 14-20

**"§353H- Incarcerated individuals; social work training program; established.** (a) The department shall develop and establish a program, in collaboration with the department of human services, to train incarcerated nonviolent misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants in the area of social work to explore a professional pathway in the practice of social work, and become eligible for employment as assistants to licensed social workers ~~[or individuals on a pathway to be a licensed social worker]."~~

To better understand the distinction between working in "the area of social work" and the "Practice of Social Work," this description adopted by the NASW is helpful:

*Social work practice consists of the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

 MSW, LCSW

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LCSW

Executive Director,

National Association of Social Workers- Hawai'i Chapter

**SB-2375**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:56:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT SB 2375 RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.

**SB-2375**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:01:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2375 requires the department of public safety, in collaboration with the department of human services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work. It also requires progress reports on the program to the legislature. Funding is appropriated for this program.

The point was raised that the program may be limited to misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants, i.e., those who are in jail. Accordingly, if they are in jail, they are serving one year or less. It is doubtful that one year is sufficient time to be trained in the area of social work.

The CAP suggested amendment is for this educational opportunity to be open to all nonviolent incarcerated persons.