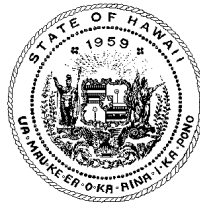


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2770, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2770, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which seeks to appropriate funds to PSD to collaborate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), to create a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for prison inmates that emphasizes Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices.

PSD is very willing to work with OHA to gain their valuable input, guidance, and expertise on creating such a program that will benefit Native Hawaiian inmates, to include an estimated cost for this initiative. If the program is successful, the Department is hopeful that it can be expanded to be inclusive of all interested inmates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting the intent of SB 2770, SD1.



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

March 16, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Committee on Corrections, Military, & Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission

SUBJECT: **SB 2770 Relating to Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Programs.**

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Corrections System Oversight Commission was created by Act 179, SLH 2019, to provide independent oversight over our correctional system. The Commission's statutory responsibilities include monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program of the Department of Public Safety and ensuring that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole. [See Hawaii Revised Statutes 353L-3(b).]

National movements regarding indigenous programming within a correctional setting advocate that for successful reintegration to occur the following must be addressed.

- their participation in and access to spiritual and cultural activities
- culturally responsive programs, preferably delivered by Indigenous people
- the support they receive from family and community

In the Office of Hawaiian Affairs report on the Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System 2011 recommendations were offered that spoke on:

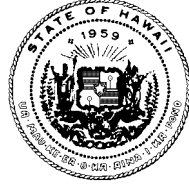
- Honoring the Sacred Forgiveness, and Successful Entry Back
- Kuleana (Responsibility within the context of the collective)
- Pili, Close Relations, and Feeding with learning

In the commissions responsibility of oversight of the Department of Public Safety in regards to population control and a Comprehensive re-entry program we strongly support SB2770 to

encourage collaboration between the department of Public Safety and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the creation of a Native Hawaiian indigenous model of healing to manage culturally relevant programming for its entire incarcerated population.

Mark Patterson
Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 12, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2770 SD1 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION
PROGRAMS.**

Hearing: March 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, defers to the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Public Safety to create, in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for prison inmates that emphasizes Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Codifying in the Hawaii Revised Statutes the mandate for the creation of a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Traditionally, rehabilitation programs focused on education and employment, if offered, are often based on models that may not have any relevance or foundation to inmates' identity, cultural beliefs, and worldview. Studies have shown a positive association between having a strong cultural identity and feelings of self-worth, belonging or social connections, and purpose. The national movement on racial and gender equality and equity continues to address the needs of various cultural groups. It recognizes the richness of cultural practices while acknowledging the impacts and consequences of historical and intergenerational trauma. Addressing historical and intergenerational trauma through informed cultural practices and frameworks should be a foundational part of rehabilitation programs during and after incarceration.

In addition to education and employment programs, DHS supports including trauma-informed, culturally and gender-appropriate rehabilitation programs to address the needs of currently incarcerated individuals. DHS further emphasizes the importance of creating culturally-based diversion programs as alternatives to incarceration to minimize or eliminate traumatization and re-traumatization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2770, S.D. 1

March 16, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

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

Senate Bill No. 2770, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Public Safety to collaborate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on the creation of a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for Native Hawaiian prison inmates, which puts an emphasis on Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices.

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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair

Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

10:00 AM

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 2770 SD1 - NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PGMS.

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden 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 HD1 of the more than 4,008 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,110 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates the opportunity to share our strong support of cultural programming, especially when delivered by cultural practitioners. We have witnessed the effect of programs that have resonated with Kanaka Maoli and others who gain a deeper understanding of their responsibilities to themselves, their families, and their communities. These programs, initiated by our people serving sentences abroad in Minnesota, have been amazing.

When our people were sent to prisons on the continent, they worked hard to keep their connections to home alive. We know many of the men who created the program; some have been released after serving many years in prison, and they are now contributing members of our communities. We know that facilitating people to maintain their connections to their culture has been transformative, not only for them and their families, but for their communities as well.

In the Saguaro program there is a rule that you leave your colors or gang symbols at the door - and they do. In class they work together learning mele and oli and gaining a deeper understanding of who they are and what their responsibilities are to themselves, their families, their communities, and their ancestors. The program has been successful because the focus is on culture and values. We respectfully ask the committee to support SB 2770 SD1.

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 7, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-97.pdf>

SB-2770-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:00:05 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	ACLU of Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i offers support on SB 2770 SD2 that would require the Department of Public Safety to create, in collaboration with the the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for incarcerated people that emphasizes Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices.

Given the numerous reports and literature highlighting the stark racial disparities that Native Hawaiians experience at every entry point of the criminal legal system, it is important that programs emphasizing Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices are offered in our jails and prisons, in addition to health care, education, employment and vocational training and other classes that help people to transition home and become contributing members of their 'ohana and communities.

Mahalo,
Carrie Ann Shirota

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

16 March 2022

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

Hearing Time: 10:00am

Location: CR430 & Virtual Videoconference

Re: SB 2770, SD1, Relating to Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Programs

Aloha e Chair Ohno, Vice-Chair Ganaden, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 2770, SD1, relating to Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Programs. This measure will Requires the Department of Public Safety to create, in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for prison inmates that emphasizes Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050.

This bill would focus on traditional practices in programs that contribute to the betterment of Kānaka Maoli in the prison system. Hawai'i's incarceration crisis has had a particularly severe impact on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). According to the ACLU, in 2018, NHPI made up only 23% of adults in the state, yet also a reported **47%** of people incarcerated under Hawai'i's jurisdiction that year. Prison sentences alone are not enough to rehabilitate Native Hawaiian individuals. Connection to ancestral and cultural roots are crucial in healing and creating opportunities for better ways of life for Kānaka. We believe this measure is a very important step in the efforts to advance Native Hawaiian equity in the justice system.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individual committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB 2770.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lōkahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice-Chair
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 10:00 AM, Videoconference

RE: SB 2770 SD 1 – Relating to Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Programs
Position: OFFERS COMMENTS

Dear Chair Ohno, Vice-Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans,

Papa Ola Lōkahi offers **comments** on SB 2770 SD 1, which creates a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for prison inmates centering Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices. This measure has the potential to rehabilitate better, reduce recidivism, and improve the health and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, who are overrepresented in the carceral system.

Papa Ola Lōkahi supports efforts to provide access to culturally-based programs for Native Hawaiians, as cultural connection is a crucial factor contributing to overall health and wellbeing. For imprisoned Native Hawaiians, culturally-based programs that reconnect them with their culture, ‘ohana, and communities may have better outcomes than existing models for rehabilitation and reintegration. Success with the use of culturally-based programs for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other marginalized groups has been seen in other places, such as the [San Quentin State Prison in California](#), with participating members crediting their hula program with helping them to build relationships, changes in their behavior both in and out of prison, and increased physical activity.

Culturally-based programs, like hula, attend to the holistic way Native Hawaiians view health, which [research](#) has found improves functional capacity among participants, a deepened appreciation and connection to Hawaiian culture, and offering new spiritual connections to their surrounding social environment. Such programming implemented and sustained in alignment with Native Hawaiian culture has the potential to create long-term changes for our communities. For culturally-based programs to be effective, sustainable, and pono, meaningful consultation with Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and community advocates, such as [‘Ekolu Mea Nui](#) and the [American Civil Liberties Union Hawai‘i](#), is necessary from conception to implementation, during program evaluation, and reform.

While Papa Ola Lōkahi generally supports the intent of this bill, the current bill language does not ensure stakeholder input is collected or integrated, and it does not outline how accountability, oversight, and evaluation of the program are to be addressed. Including these elements will strengthen the bill so that the proposed program is Native Hawaiian both by design and implementation.

Mahalo piha for the opportunity to provide **comments** on **SB 2770 SD 1**.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.

Papa Ola Lokahi

is the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

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Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair

Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 10:00AM

Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 430

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Malina Kaulukukui, and I am a retired social worker and cultural practitioner of hula as well as traditional, family-based ho'oponopono. I am testifying on behalf of the Women's Prison Project in **Strong Support of SB2770.SD1 RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.**

Since 2016, I have been a volunteer at the Women's Community Correctional Center and established a hula halau - hula school - within the facility. I have seen first hand the healing power of culture as foundational for women who have experienced so much pain in their lives.

It has been well-established that the impact of on Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system is disproportionate and stark.* While Native Hawaiians as a whole comprise about 24% of the state's population (depending on which Census Report is used) , they make up almost 36% of the incarcerated population. Native Hawaiian women, in particular, comprise about 18% of the state's population, but almost 44% of Hawaii's female incarcerated population. Trauma is a prominent factor in justice-involved women and often contributes to why they enter the into the system. Once incarcerated, trauma affects their institutional behaviors, which, in turn, negatively affects eligibility for limited treatment and educational opportunities, while often extending their release dates. It is also well-established that cultural historical trauma (a constellation of characteristics associated with the intergenerational collective trauma experienced by a specific group that has a history of being systematically

oppressed by a dominant group) compounds individual trauma.* Research with a variety of indigenous groups has also shown that when cultural historical trauma is present, healing and rehabilitation from trauma must also include the opportunities for cultural healing through cultural practices.* Culture is foundational. Thus, gender-specific, trauma-informed, culturally-grounded services and opportunities for incarcerated women, overseen by knowledgeable providers well-versed in Native Hawaiian principles, are key to equipping them with practical and emotional skill sets critical for post-release success, which can also break the cycle of intergenerational trauma and recidivism. It is about hope, and connecting with their families again and standing healthy in their communities. **The Women's Prison Project urges you to support SB2770,SD1 to appropriate funds for these critically needed programs.** Thank you for considering our thoughts on this bill.

Malina Kaulukukui For Women's Prison Project

***Resources**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2012), *Creating A Place of Healing and Forgiveness: The Trauma-Informed Care Initiative at the Women's Community Correctional Center of Hawaii*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (2010). *The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System*, Honolulu, HI. Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Office of Hawaiian Affairs ((2018). *Haumea – Transforming the Healthg of Native Hawaiian Women and Empowering Wahine Well-being*. Honolulu HI, Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

HCR85 Task Force (December, 2018). *Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities: Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawai'i Legislature 2019 Regular Session*.

Report of the Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma: A Federal Intergovernmentl Partnership on Mental Health Transformation, June 2011.

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Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

For hearing Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Re: SB2770,SD1

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

Requires the department of public safety, in collaboration with the office of Hawaiian affairs, to create a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for prison inmates that puts an emphasis on preserving Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

The whole purpose of this bill is to mandate "The department of public safety, in collaboration with the office of Hawaiian affairs, shall create a rehabilitation program for Native Hawaiian prison inmates with an emphasis on preserving Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices."

Is that really a good idea?

For several decades ethnic Hawaiian activists have been working hard to strengthen government and private institutions or programs that require members or beneficiaries to prove they have "Native Hawaiian" ancestry, even if the percentage of blood quantum is low. DHHL, OHA, Kamehameha Schools, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Queen Lili'uokalani Childrens Center... the list is endless. Apparently there is something so powerful in even a single drop of the magic blood that many people who have it feel compelled to associate primarily or even exclusively with anyone else who has it. Racial "preference" turns out to be racial segregation and separatism. The beautiful Hawaiian creation legend "Kumulipo" says all humans are children of the gods and siblings to the 'aina; but today's activists twist it as describing only ethnic Hawaiians, relegating everyone else to an inferior status of "other."

See webpage "Hawaiian religious fascism. A twisted version of a beautiful creation legend provides the theological basis for a claim that ethnic Hawaiians are entitled to racial supremacy in the governance and cultural life of the Hawaiian islands."

<https://www.angelfire.com/big11a/HawnReligFascism.html>

See book "Hawaiian Apartheid: Racial Separatism and Ethnic Nationalism in the Aloha State"

<https://www.angelfire.com/planet/bigfiles40/BookPromo.html>

How often have we heard it said that Native Hawaiians have the worst rate among all Hawaii's ethnic groups for drug abuse, spouse abuse, child abuse, arrests, incarceration, and other social dysfunction. Clearly there is something troubling about "Hawaiian values" and "Hawaiian cultural practices" -- the exact terms which this bill touts as the core of "rehabilitation programs" which prisons must be required to

foist upon Native Hawaiian inmates, at taxpayer expense. Either "Hawaiian values" and "Hawaiian cultural practices" are purely aspirational labels and not descriptive of actual behavior in the community, or else they are damaging to the ability of Native Hawaiians to participate successfully in the larger society where they find themselves whether they like it or not.

A prison program designed to inculcate Native Hawaiian inmates with "Hawaiian values" and "Hawaiian cultural practices" closely resembles school curriculum in the Hawaiian-focus charter schools. It is designed to brainwash people with a political viewpoint leading them to become activists for race-based political power and, ultimately, sovereignty. Here are quotes from a foundational document where Ku Kahakalau unashamedly explained the purpose of her "Kanu O Ka 'Aina" Hawaiian-focus tax-funded public charter school:

"Kanu is tailored towards the distinctive cultural wants and needs of Hawai'i's indigenous student population. Utilizing our natives values handed down to us in thousands of proverbs as a philosophical basis ... The long-term goal of Kanu is to create a native designed and controlled system of Hawaiian education that will empower native communities throughout the archipelago to achieve political, cultural and economic self-determination. ... Kanu wants to actively prepare native students to participate in - and perhaps even lead - Hawai'i's indigenous sovereignty movement. Initially I was sort of hesitant to claim that Kanu represents a liberatory pedagogy. However, the more I reflected on the true purpose of my model the more I realized that my model is definitely designed to liberate. Specifically, Kanu wants to encourage Hawaiian students to become politically conscious, and individually and collectively tackle the problem of Hawaiian oppression by the United States and our subjugation to American law and a Western way of life. In that vein, Kanu has the potential of significantly contributing to the Hawaiian sovereignty effort."

Well, that is certainly not what most taxpayers want our government tax-funded schools to be doing with their students, and not what we want our government tax-funded prisons to be doing with their inmates.

SB-2770-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 4:13:45 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support.

SB-2770-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 5:33:43 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I support this bill. Mahalo for your every effort to care for Native Hawai'ians in their ancestral land. You honor yourselves, and those others of us who have chosen to live here, in doing so.

SB-2770-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:24:56 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I storngly support SB2770 and ask CMV members to do the same.

Thank you.

SB-2770-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:34:26 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2770 SD1 Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to create, in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a Native Hawaiian rehabilitation program for prison inmates that emphasizes Native Hawaiian values and cultural practices. Appropriates funds.

SB2770 SD1 recognizes the importance of taking into account the cultural context in which a successful rehabilitation process can take place for Native Hawaiians. This approach has proven successful and should be supported.

Please pass SB2770 SD1.

TESTIMONY ON SB2770 SD 1 RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, AND VETERANS

March 16, 2022

Time: 10AM

Virtual

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and members of the House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans, **my name is Lilinoe Kauahikaua, MSW. I am here today to support SB 2770 SD 1 RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS**

There are disproportionate numbers of Native Hawaiians incarcerated. A statistic that has unfortunately been sustained over decades. OHA found that compared to other racial or ethnic groups, Hawaiians are more likely to be: a) given a prison sentence; b) given longer prison sentences; c) be sentenced to longer probation terms; and d) commit an act of recidivism. Since 1977, the amount of people incarcerated in Hawai'i has increased by more than 700%.

This disproportionate rate of incarceration among Native Hawaiians has had devastating impacts on Native families, leading to increased poverty, at risk youth, and family separation.

Many of the existing programs within facilities favor more western oriented, clinical therapies targeting short term solutions to behavioral problems that do not necessarily resonate with Indigenous peoples and the cultural perceptions of self among Indigenous communities. For our Native populations, many of these behaviors have manifested through intergenerational generational trauma through the impacts of colonization. The disconnection, oppression and criminalization of the Native identity have seriously impacted the health and wellbeing of the Native Hawaiian community.

Such communities are often struggling to reassert a positive ethnic identity after centuries of colonization. Their own healing systems were often crushed and outlawed in the process of colonization. The loss, disruption or displacement of traditional healing practices went hand-in-hand with the undermining of worldviews and the destruction of a way of life. Attacks on traditional healing systems had the effect of weakening indigenous beliefs that gave meaning and structure to life. And such belief systems can be the very things that sustain people through periods of pain and struggle. Native Hawaiian health is intimately bound up with Native Hawaiian identity: "Autonomy is closely linked with self-esteem and the earning of respect. Both are basic and linked. Low levels of autonomy and low self-esteem are likely to be related to worse health.

Therefore it is incredibly important that we support the promotion and connection of a strong and positive cultural identity for Native Hawaiians, especially those experiencing incarceration.

Positive cultural connections can lead to long-term paradigm shifts and an increase in self-worth which lead to lower recidivism rates.

Please support SB2770,SD1 to appropriate funds for these critically needed programs

Lilinoe Kauahikaua, MSW
'EkoLu Mea Nui
Kinohi Mana Nui
Lkauahik@hawaii.edu

SB-2770-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:19:18 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: House of Representatives, The Thirty-First Legislature Regular Session Of 2022

Committee On Corrections, Military, & Veterans

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: SB2770 (In Support)

Dear Chair Ohno Vice-Chair, Ganaden, and Members of the Committee,

Please support this bill. We have a lot of work to do to improve our criminal justice system.

Passing this Prison Inmate Rehabilitation Program bill is an important step towards this goal.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

(Oahu Resident for 29 years)