

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

February 9, 2022

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2393 – RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS COMPLETING A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.**

HEARING: February 10, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, provides comments, and requests clarification. Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish within the Department of Human Services a 4-year pilot program to provide housing and child care vouchers to qualified applicants who will soon complete, or have recently completed, a term of imprisonment as a sentenced offender, and who have or will have sole or primary custody of 1 or more children under the age of 18. Requires a voucher recipient to be employed at least 20 hours per week or be employed and attend an educational program for a combined total of at least 20 hours per week. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys.

This measure is similar to SB2775, though SB2775 establishes the program in the Department of Public Safety; our response to this measure is similar. The department agrees that more resources are needed to support inmates exiting the State's jails and prisons and appreciates this comprehensive proposal. The department will work with PSD to understand how former jail and prison inmates may access the existing benefit programs of DHS. For example, the DHS Med-QUEST division has a working relationship with PSD to have prison inmates apply for Medicaid coverage before exiting. In addition, our staff has provided training to community groups working with former inmates on accessing DHS programs.

DHS requests clarification if the Legislature intends to provide state general funds for the identified vouchers or whether the expectation is that former inmates will access existing federally or state-funded programs. DHS will continue to work with PSD to develop pre-exit strategies so that inmates have the necessary information to access existing programs as soon as they can after exiting jail or prison. However, the primary resource that men and women exiting jail or prison need is safe housing; it is challenging to follow up with individuals who do not have an address.

Notably, the Legislature should also consider that, depending upon the individual's household size upon exiting jail or prison, if these are new kinds of vouchers, it is unclear how DHS programs will consider these vouchers for eligibility for existing programs.

DHS is open to discussion on how to maximize existing resources to accomplish the purpose of this measure. DHS also asks the Legislature to support SB2306/HB1741 Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals, which proposes a small pilot to work with inmates exiting from Waiawa Correctional Center.

Additionally, DHS will need additional staff and operational resources, including funds for contract services, to establish this pilot will be needed. As the bill can appropriate only one-year funding, DHS suggests that available appropriations go toward planning and program development and give additional time to develop the idea. As the bill progresses through session, DHS will update its resources needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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**

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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 COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3293

**February 10, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS COMPLETING A TERM OF
IMPRISONMENT

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

Senate Bill No. 3293: 1) establishes a housing and child care voucher pilot program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for individuals who are exiting incarceration or were recently released and who have or will have sole or primary custody of a minor child for a period of four years; 2) sets eligibility and participation requirements for the pilot program; 3) sets reporting requirements for DHS; and 4) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS in FY 23 to provide pilot program vouchers.

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.

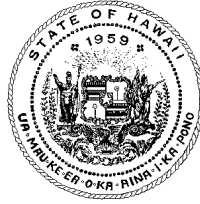
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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



MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

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

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3293
RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS COMPLETING
A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.

by
Max.N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

February 10, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Via Video conference

Chair Nishihara, Chair Buenaventura, and Members of Both Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 3293, which proposes to establish within the Department of Human Services, a 4-year pilot program to provide housing and child care vouchers to qualified applicants who will soon complete, or have recently completed, a term of imprisonment as a sentenced offender, and who have or will have sole or primary custody of 1 or more children under the age of 18, providing appropriate funding to sustain the program.

The Department supports the intent of SB 3293, as female offenders' pathways to the criminal justice system differ greatly from male offenders, and their needs are also very different. Access to affordable and safe housing for female

Testimony on Senate Bill 3293
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Human Services
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offenders and their minor aged children is critically important for their successful reintegration back into the community.

In some instances, the nature of crimes committed by offenders' bars them from living in public housing and/or receiving federal rental assistance through Section 8 housing programs. While the Public Housing Authority (PHA) has some discretion with respect to determining eligibility, this initiative will further assist in efforts to provide safe and affordable housing for female offenders and their minor age children.

Further, it should be noted, while the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) ensures all offenders being released on parole have a verified parole plan, which includes review and approving an appropriate residence, offenders completing their sentence(s) incarcerated (maxing out) would be the appropriate target audience for this initiative to include other much-needed community-based services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting the intent of SB 3293.



SB3293 Comprehensive Women Offender Reentry Program

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb 10 2022: 1:00 pm : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Strongly Supports SB3293:

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.

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.

Motivating programs with encouraging support could make a big difference here.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.

SB-3293

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:09:59 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/10/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dara Carlin, M.A. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Stand in Support.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Lynn DeCoite

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1300 HST

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3293 Relating to Persons Completing a Term of Imprisonment

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and the members of the Committee on Human Services; Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Lynn DeCoite, and the members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Mahalo for hearing SB3293 relating to persons completing a term of imprisonment. I am writing in **strong support** of SB3293.

A 4-year pilot program that provides housing and child care will help immensely for someone as they attempt to get their life back together. Someone who has been incarcerated experiences their sentence a second time upon reentry when they realize the lack of social and community support, and how different the world is around them.

Housing is required of parents, and it is nearly impossible to seek employment, and remain employed while unhoused as destabilizing measures such as the “sweeps” uproots people’s lives on a nightly basis. In fact, a second weekly “sweep” was announced for Thomas Square and Young street earlier today.

The pilot program outlined in SB3293 will empower formerly incarcerated people, and reduce a great deal of unnecessary harm that their children will face otherwise. SB3293 is a worthwhile investment in our keiki and our future.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Soon Kim
Senate District 15