

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3294, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

March 31, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES

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

Senate Bill No. 3294, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the Department of Public Safety for FY 23 to fund reentry planning circles for incarcerated women. This bill is intended to lower recidivism rates and provide solution-based planning processes for the development of detailed plans for obtaining housing, employment, and other necessities upon the release of inmates from incarceration.

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.

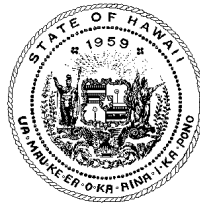
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Deputy Director
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE 3294, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES.

By
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

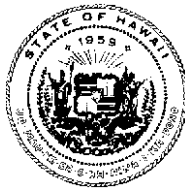
March 31, 2022; 2:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 3294, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1, which seeks to appropriate an unspecified amount of funding for an unspecified number of reentry planning circles for incarcerated women. The Department provides comments regarding this proposed legislation.

As stated in previous testimony on this measure, the therapeutic process that may result in participation in reentry circles would best serve offenders and their families as part of jail diversion programs, not after conviction and sentencing. The potential positive outcomes of these types of circles could be magnified and extended to entire family groups if instituted as a part of community-based incarceration diversion initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 3294, SD 2, HD 1.



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

March 31, 2022

TO: Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: **SB 3294, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES**

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita 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).]

The Commission strongly supports SB 3294, SD2, HD1 which would funding for reentry planning circles for incarcerated women in Hawaii. This mandate would be consistent with the requirement in HRS 353H-3 that the Department of Public Safety develop a "comprehensive network of transitional programs to address the needs of individuals exiting the correctional system." Such a network promotes community safety by facilitating the adjustment from the highly structured prison setting to independent living. These transitional services work best when the link inmates in prison with the communities to which they inmates.

Reentry planning circles effectively help inmates re-connect with their families and other loved ones. Family connection is a crucial element in successful reentry. Our only concern with this bill is that it is limited only to women inmates. It is an important start, nevertheless, and we urge your favorable consideration.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 31, 2022

2:30 PM

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 3294 HD1 - REENTRY PLANNING CIRCLES FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita 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 3,993 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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share Community Alliance on Prisons’ strong support of SB 3294 HD1. This bill allows for reentry planning circles for women. This restorative/transformational justice process is an important component of successful reentry. The circles include those impacted by wrongdoing, prison counselors, family, friends, and employers who gather together to support the person requesting the circle. The circle becomes a woman’s reentry team as everyone participates in helping her achieve her goals and aspirations.

This is a peacemaking, community-building, solution-focused process that looks ahead and doesn’t keep the woman tied to her past behavior. Stygma is one of the most difficult things for people to overcome; it affects their self-image and self-esteem, which in turn affects their ability to seek employment, housing, services, etc. CAP has We have participated in many circles and it is clear that bringing people together is a great way to help someone successfully reenter the community.

Community Alliance on Prisons worked with the Hawai`i Friends of Restorative Justice to establish the restorative circle process in 2005. It currently only operates at WCCC as the funding has all been from private foundations. The state must start funding programs that actually help people and reduce recidivism. We urge the committee to adequately fund this important reentry process that produces great results!

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 21, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-21.pdf>

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2022
TIME: 2:30 PM via

**SUPPORT FOR SB3294 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)**

The Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ) strongly supports this measure making an appropriation to provide [reentry planning process, known as huikahi circles](#) for incarcerated women in the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).

Reentry planning for incarcerated individuals is vital for their successful return to the community, and for their desistance from crime ([Taxman, 2004](#)). Huikahi circles were developed by HFRJ with input from the Community Alliance on Prisons and Waiawa Correctional Facility in 2004. The process is for people who take responsibility for their behavior and want to make amends with harmed loved ones and the community—and who want to plan for their transition back into the community.

Since 2005, when the reentry circles were first piloted at Waiawa Correctional Facility, 180 circles have been provided mainly at state prisons, and mostly at WCCC. The outcomes have been [extensively researched](#). A total of 777 people who participated have been surveyed, and all, except one, report the process was positive (the outlier said it was neutral).

Research shows the process is [healing for children](#) of incarcerated parents [and other loved ones](#). And an [independent evaluation](#) of the process shows it reduces recidivism. A cost and benefit evaluation, recently accepted for publication in a criminology journal, shows huikahi reentry planning circles can help decrease Hawai'i's prison population, which would save \$4.5 million annually in state incarceration costs.

The circles have been provided *pro bono* and with private grants to the state prisons. Except for the state's federal [2021 GEER grant](#), the state has never funded the process for adults.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's support, please contact me at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2022
TIME: 2:30 PM via

**SUPPORT FOR SB3294 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY
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The Women's Prison Project strongly supports this measure making an appropriation to provide [reentry planning process, known as huikahi circles](#) for incarcerated women in the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).

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The circles have been provided *pro bono* and with private grants to the state prisons. Except for the state's federal [2021 GEER grant](#), the state has never funded the process for adults.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about the Women's Prison Project's support, please contact me at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, on behalf of the Women's Prison Project.

SB-3294-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 1:27:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Rich	Women?s Prison Project	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Thursday March 31, 2022

TIME: 2:00 PM,

PLACE: Via Videoconference

CONFERENCE ROOM 308

STATE CAPITOL

SUPPORT FOR SB3294 SD2 .HD1 RELATING TO WOMEN’S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)

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The circles have been provided *pro bono* and with private grants to the state prisons. Except for the state's federal [2021 GEER grant](#), the state has never funded the process for adults.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's support, please contact me at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

Linda Rich on behalf of the Women's Prison Project



SB3294 SD2 HD1 Huikahi Circles (Restorative Circles) for Offender Reentry

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, Mar 31 2022: 2:30 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB3294 SD2 HD1:

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.

HSAC supports the Hawaii version of Restorative Circles that is a group process with offenders, victims, family and friends and is now evidenced-based practices:

- It has been growing in its use as part of offender reentry processes.
- The group processes is self-directed, goal-oriented, and an active learning experience for participants.
- It promotes positive motivation to repair harm and to take responsibility for their futures.
- Besides decreasing recidivism, the Huikahi Circle provides healing for people harmed.

This engaging process is important because it involves the public to help with recidivism and reentry back into their communities.

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

SB-3294-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:07:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB3294 that provides for reentry planning circles for incarcerated women. All projects to help prevent recidivism are important to reduce the State's incarceration rate and cost to the State.

SB-3294-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 11:06:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: SB3294 (In Support)

Hearing: March 31, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Dear Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice-Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

I am Wendy Gibson-Viviani, a healthcare professional (RN) who has lived and worked in Hawaii for 29 years. I support SB3294 because:

- I strongly support providing funding for reentry planning circles for incarcerated women in Hawaii.
- This program would promote community safety by facilitating the adjustment from the highly structured prison setting to independent living.
- I believe this is a good strategy, that may help reduce recidivism and provide some healing.
- This legislation would be consistent with the requirement in HRS 353H-3 that the Department of Public Safety develop a “comprehensive network of transitional programs to address the needs of individuals exiting the correctional system.”

Please help provide this important program by supporting SB3294

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for allowing me to give testimony.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua