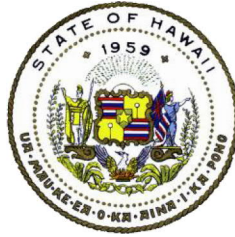


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Cathy Ross**  
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ADMINISTRATION

**Alan M. Asato**  
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CORRECTIONS

**Shawn H. Tsuha**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 90  
ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND  
EXPAND ITS STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST  
IN TRANSITIONING FORMERLY INCARCERATED FEMALE INMATES  
BACK INTO SOCIETY.

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 16, 2015, 10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 90. Since 2005, the PSD has successfully contracted with structured community placement programs on Oahu to assist the Department in providing incarcerated female offenders with evidence-based re-socialization and reentry services.

The PSD appreciates the Legislature's support of our continual efforts to address the special issues faced by female offenders. In concert with the precepts of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the PSD will continue its efforts to secure the most effective programs and services to assist female offenders to successfully transition to the community and reunite with their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



## HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

April 14, 2015

To: Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

From: Marci Lopes, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: SCR 90-STRONG SUPPORT

PLACE: Conference Room 309

DATE and TIME: Thursday, April 16th, 2015 10:00 a.m.

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The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide partnership of 21 domestic violence program and domestic violence shelter providers on 6 of our Hawaiian Islands. Our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

Thank you Committee Members for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is in strong support of SCR 90, which would require the Department of Public Safety to continue to expand and improve upon programs that are assisting formerly incarcerated female inmates back into society.

Many women who are incarcerated have trauma related to domestic violence and sexual assaults. Research has told us that 85% of victims use substances to cope with their abuse. From my professional experience I would say that Hawaii is also at the 85% rate with prescription narcotics, and illegal substance use. I became a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor after seeing so many victims come into our domestic violence shelter with substance abuse issues. Many victims are introduced to substances by their abuser as a means of controlling the victims, and discrediting her by telling her she is a drug addict and no one would believe her, and often threatening to take their children away from her, or making threats of calling CWS on them.

I have heard many victims report that they were arrested on drug charges because her abuser made her sell drugs, or engage in prostitution to pay for his drugs. Sadly many domestic violence victims are falsely arrested and are incarcerated when they in fact are the victims. HSCADV hopes that victims who are incarcerated will be able to benefit from treatment and services so they are able to heal from their trauma, and to regain custody of their children when appropriate.

Marci Lopes, Executive Director



**SCR90**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**  
House Committee on Public Safety

April 16, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR90, which will encourage the Department of Public Safety to further expand its effective community placement programs in order to more efficiently balance its resources and ensure more successful rehabilitation and community reintegration of female ex-offenders.

In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. This report found that Native Hawaiians comprise 39 percent of the adult incarcerated population, while they account for just 24 percent of the general population.<sup>1</sup> This disparity is even greater for women, as Native Hawaiian women comprise 44 percent of the female adult incarcerated population but just 19.8 percent of the general population of women in Hawai‘i.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, Native Hawaiians bear a disproportionate burden of the punitive responses to drug use as they are charged with the majority of offenses related to methamphetamines (which account for the most charges of all drug offenses) and make up the largest portion of offenders incarcerated for drug offenses.<sup>3</sup>

The Native Hawaiian Criminal Justice Task Force (NHJTF) report recommends that community-based substance abuse and mental health treatment should be developed and fully utilized where possible, to better support incarcerated populations and save the state resources.<sup>4</sup> The NHJTF noted in its 2012 report that much of the community testimony presented during its meetings across Ka Pae ‘Āina Hawai‘i were related to the challenges of reintegration for many Native Hawaiians.<sup>5</sup> For many, successful reentry is thwarted by barriers to securing employment and housing such as their arrest and conviction records, as well as their alienation from their families and children in particular. Much of the testimony reaffirmed that assisting with reintegration should be a primary kuleana of the

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<sup>1</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 36 (2010), [http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir\\_final\\_web\\_rev.pdf](http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir_final_web_rev.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 11.

<sup>3</sup> However, it should be noted that Native Hawaiians do not use drugs at drastically different rates from other races or ethnicities and report only marginally higher rates of methamphetamine use than people of other races or ethnicities. *Id.* at 12.

<sup>4</sup> 2012 NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REP. sec. G, at 29-30.

<sup>5</sup> 2012 NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REP. sec. A, at 27, and sec. C, at 28, <http://www.oha.org/nativehawaiianjusticetaskforce>.

community.<sup>6</sup> It also reaffirmed that many local community-based substance abuse treatment and reintegration programs have demonstrated substantial success in rehabilitating offenders and reducing recidivism. Further, OHA's research shows that community-based drug treatment can reduce recidivism by 17 percent, whereas drug treatment in jail reduces the chance of recidivism by a mere 5 percent.<sup>7</sup>

If passed, SCR90 would recognize these findings and encourage the Department of Public Safety to expand its community placement programs, more efficiently balance its resources, and more successfully rehabilitate and reintegrate female offenders.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** SCR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 39.

<sup>7</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, *supra* note 1, at 48.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 8, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Room 309

## SUPPORT for SCR 90 –COMMUNITY PLACEMENT FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals under the care and custody of the department of public safety, always mindful that 1,500 of those imprisoned 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.

SCR 90 encourages the department of public safety to continue and expand its structured community placement programs to assist in transitioning formerly incarcerated female inmates back into society.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure.

Community Placement must be funded as the final phase of transition, allowing women to move from a highly structured residential program to supervised independent living in the community. Services address important aspects of the reentry continuum, providing continuity and a more integrated, seamless re-socialization and reentry process. This critical component assists individuals in their adjustment to greater independence as they transition from more to less structure.

The Community Placement component serves to:

- Reduce recidivism and the associated costs to taxpayers by monitoring residents in independent community living settings prior to their release to parole.
- Reduce the potential for delinquency among the children of program graduates through parenting and family re-integration program components.
- Provide participants the support necessary to sustain employment and advance in their careers, thus decreasing both welfare dependency and the inclination to return to criminal behavior for economic reasons.
- Enhance the odds for success with regard to maintaining employment and stability in housing, thus eliminating two of the most critical stressors faced by individuals in transition from prison to the community.
- Reduce costs to tax payers in contributing to restoring peoples ' lives, impacting health and human service budgets and making safer communities for all.
- Reduce prison overcrowding by freeing up contracted beds for community status women.

Community Placement provides structure, monitoring and accountability in a critical phase of re-entry.

Community Placement reinforces and provides opportunities to practice tools and pro-social, responsible living in participants' on-going transitional process.

Community Placement interrupts the inter-generational cycle of trauma, substance abuse, crime and incarceration.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts on this important strategy for reducing the incarcerated population, preparing women for successful reintegration to their families and communities, and promoting safe, healthy and just communities!



**LATE**

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
[www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) | 808.531.7448 | [voters@lwvhawaii.com](mailto:voters@lwvhawaii.com)

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, April 16, 2015 10:00 a.m., Room 309

SCR 90 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND ITS STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST IN TRANSITIONING FORMERLY INCARCERATED FEMALE INMATES BACK INTO SOCIETY

### TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii offers comments on SCR90, which encourages the Department of Public Safety to assist formerly incarcerated female inmates back into society using programs similar to Oahu's structured community placement program.**

In 2008, the League completed our "Drug Policy Study for Hawaii," finding that the relationship between drug policies and individual and societal health is complex and clearly bound up with myriad other issues of societal and economic justice.

The League promotes social and economic justice and the health and safety of citizens. Many formerly incarcerated women find themselves facing a situation of poverty and the risk of domestic violence after they leave our prisons. Both of these issues are too frequently intergenerational.

We support policies and programs that lend themselves to effective solutions for women, and that address drug treatment in a public health context and reduce underlying societal inequities. Programs that help women break the cycle of substance abuse after they leave incarceration must be front and center to a public health approach that will be more cost effective than a punitive experience of being incarcerated again.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**yamashita1-Marianne**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 4:18 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM

**SCR90**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for PBS on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	No

Comments: We are in STRONG SUPPORT of this SCR, as we need to empower our Pa'ahao to seek out a change in their choices to live a life as an asset to the Community & our Society as a whole.

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**yamashita1-Marianne**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 7:40 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** ezlchirpz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM\*

**SCR90**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for PBS on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lezlie Kiaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 90

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND ITS STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST IN TRANSITIONING FORMERLY INCARCERATED FEMALE INMATES BACK INTO SOCIETY.

The committee on Public Safety  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2015  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Good Morning Chair and Vice Chair.

My name is Marie Hirakata. I am a student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii. I had an opportunity to intern at a residential substance abuse treatment program, and I learned a lot from the women there. I got to know the women who were just out of incarcerated before they went through treatment. I believe that addiction does not get into our lives easily, but once addiction becomes our culture, it is hard to get out. Many people may wonder why people start using substances, and I was one of those people. It is hard to imagine becoming an addict when we are living in a safe environment with supportive people around us. The risk factors that contribute to drug use could include parents or family's incarceration, violence, being a victim of abuse, having unhealthy relationships, and/ or homelessness. There are also innumerable other reasons that trigger them to start using. Most of the women that I got to know had an incredibly tough story that led up to their drug use and addictive behavior. If their parents or family members were using drugs, then their children have higher risks for future addictions. Once the vicious circle begins in a life, it is hard to break out of it. This is the reality of addiction. Therefore, we need community placements to break the negative circle of violence, crime, incarceration, abuse and trauma.

Encouragingly, I see so many women who succeeded in recovery. They seriously look like different people. These women become strong as they are released from their addiction. These women learn coping, social and self-regulation skills. They also learn to keep a person who they trust as a sober support. We need continual help for these women who are successfully transitioning to healthy lives in our community.

I want to thank the committee for allowing me this opportunity to represent my opinion.

Sincerely,

Marie Hirakata  
MSW Student

**yamashita1-Marianne**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 8:27 AM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** maucrowe@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM

**SCR90**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for PBS on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james crowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is so practical and reasonable to return females back to their families, for the former inmate, for their families, for the community and for Public Safety.

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