

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.

PSM, WAM

DAVID Y. IGE
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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

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, 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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

SUPPORT INTENT of SCR 90 -COMMUNITY PLACEMENT FOR WOMEN

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker 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!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:05 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: lorraine@reawakeningforwomen.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM
Attachments: SCR 90 Community Placement.pdf

SCR90

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in support of SCR 90.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:26 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM*

SCR90

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 12:59 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: maucrowe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM

SCR90

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james crowe	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Good community placement further advances the success of former inmates and of actual public safety of our communities

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 9:31 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: ezlchirpz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM*

SCR90

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lezlie Kiaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:44 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR90 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM

SCR90

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gladys Coelho Baisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 90 • Community Placement is an important step in the reentry process; allowing women to go from more to less structure and enabling the gradual reintegration process to happen more seamlessly, thus increasing the odds for successful community reintegration. • Community Placement services for women are cost effective in that they impact the social fabric of our community by decreasing recidivism and contributing to stopping the revolving door, thus preempting the inter-generational cycle of abuse, addiction, crime and incarceration.

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