

## ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE: H.B. NO. 2391, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS. BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

DATE:	Friday, March 4, 2016	TIME:	2:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	State Capitol, Room 325		
TESTIFIER(S):	Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or Richard W. Stacey, Deputy Attorney Ge	neral	

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

We support the intent of this measure and offer comments for consideration, which may address potential legal issues currently present in the bill.

This bill enables the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to avoid overcrowding in the community correctional centers in each county by giving the director the discretion to release pre-trial or sentenced misdemeanants on recognizance. The bill is similar to Act 305, Session Laws of Hawaii 1993, which provided the director of PSD or a designee the authority to release pretrial inmates on recognizance. In 1985 the State of Hawaii entered into a consent decree with the federal government, which required PSD to keep the population of correctional centers from exceeding their capacity, including Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). <u>Spear v.</u> <u>Ariyoshi</u>, U.S. D. Ct. Haw. CV No. 84-1104. Act 305 was enacted during the pendency of the consent decree, and although originally set to expire in 1994, was extended by the Legislature via annual amendments until it expired via a sunset provision in 2000. The consent decree was dismissed by stipulation in 1997. This bill would revive the PSD director's ability to grant early release to certain misdemeanants.

This bill is not restricted to pretrial misdemeanants. It also extends the director's discretion to release sentenced misdemeanants, but excludes certain categories of detainees from being released. The granting of authority to the PSD director to release sentenced misdemeanants despite court orders sentencing them to a set term of jail may constitute a violation of the doctrine of the separation of powers. The Legislature, by granting the PSD

Testimony of the Department of the Attorney General Twenty-Eighth Legislature, 2016 Page 2 of 2

director the authority to alter the judgments, could be seen as infringing upon the court's jurisdiction.

For purposes of constitutional separation of powers, sentencing is a judicial function. Although the power to fix the limits of punishment for criminal acts lies with the legislature, the imposition of a sentence in a particular case within those limits is a judicial function.

16A Am. Jur. 2d Constitutional Law § 262 (Westlaw version 2015) (citations omitted).

We respectfully recommend amendments to the bill, which may defuse this separation of powers concern. These amendments include specifying in the bill that the law would apply prospectively only. We also suggest adding wording to section 706-663, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), expressly providing that the sentence imposed by the court pursuant to that section is subject to the possibility of early termination by the director of PSD in overcrowding situations at the community correctional centers.

In addition, the limitation in subsection (b), paragraph (2), of the new section 353-A in section 1 of the bill (page 1, line 17, to page 2, lines 3-5), providing that "No person who has been ... (2) Charged with or convicted of or is on probation or parole for a serious crime, as defined in section 804-3," appears to be taken from Act 305, Session Laws of Hawaii 1993. If this is not meant apply to the misdemeanants who are the subject of this bill, we recommend that this wording should be deleted.

We are available to work with the Committee on any amendments they determine appropriate.

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 Deputy Director Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata Deputy Director Corrections

> Shawn H. Tsuha Deputy Director Law Enforcement

No.

## TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2391, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS By Nolan P. Espinda, Director

#### House Committee on Judiciary Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Friday, March 4, 2016; 2:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** the adoption of House Bill (HB) 2391, House Draft (HD) 1 as a rational and reasonable alternative to incarceration and as a legislatively authorized and supported methodology for relieving overcrowded jail conditions across the State of Hawaii.

The amendments made by the Committee on Public Safety in HD1 are consistent with PSD's original intent for the measure, to exclude from consideration for release any individual who has been convicted or arrested on suspicion of abuse of a family or household member.

Under the 15-year OCCC/WCCC Consent Decree (1985-2000), there existed prior legislation authorizing the Director of the Department of Public Safety to release qualified pre-trial inmates, including accused felons, in order to keep jail populations at established capacities, under threat of per day/per inmate fines to be imposed by the court. This sunsetted law created tremendous friction for PSD with law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial entities.

The Department respectfully asks your Committee to support this proactive measure for addressing jail overcrowding, as PSD is now close to the point of being threatened or being named as a party to litigation based on conditions associated with overcrowded conditions in our jails. Testimony on HB 2391, HD1 March 4, 2016 Page 2

Misdemeanor crimes are the lowest level of criminal activity for which individuals are incarcerated. If we must relieve jail overcrowding by releasing inmates, such releases should come from this identified pool.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE 1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

ARMINA A. CHING FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



## THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY Twenty-Eighth State Legislature Regular Session of 2016 State of Hawai`i

March 4, 2016

# RE: H.B. 2391, H.D. 1; RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 2391, H.D. 1.

The purpose of H.B. 2391, H.D. 1 is to reduce the community correctional centers population by releasing defendants convicted of or awaiting trial for misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor offenses. While we have always appreciated the Department of Public Safety's hard work and dedication to protecting the public, this proposal to lower the prison population by releasing defendants whom the Director deems fit—simply to meet arbitrary headcount goals—seems directly contrary to the goal of public safety.

This bill fails to take into account that charges classified as petty misdemeanor and misdemeanors covers a plethora of offenses under the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Although H.B. 2391, H.D. 1, partly addresses our Department's prior concerns to the extent that it prohibits the release of defendants charged with abuse of family or household members (§709-906, H.R.S.), it still permits the release of defendants charged with violent offenses. To list just a few examples, defendants charged with or even convicted of sex assault in the third or fourth degree (§707-732 and §707-733, H.R.S.), assault in the third degree (§707-712, H.R.S.), harassment by stalking (§711-1106.5), terroristic threatening in the second degree (§707-717, H.R.S.), and violations of an order of protection or temporary restraining order could be released, despite specific court orders for incarceration (which is already rare in these types of cases).

KEITH M. KANESHIRO PROSECUTING ATTORNEY In addition, subsection (d), of H.B. 2391, H.D. 1, would establish an indemnification clause that protects the State, its officers and employees from civil and criminal penalties. The very need for such an indemnification clause covering any "error in judgment or discretion made in good faith and upon reasonable grounds in any action taken," seems to anticipate that further harms may indeed occur as a result of these actions. Although our Department understands that overcrowding is of great concern for the Department of Public Safety, public safety should always stand alone as a top priority.

For all of the reasons stated above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu opposes H.B. 2391, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



JOHN D. KIM Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MAUI 150 S. HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793 PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

## CONTACT: RICHARD. K. MINATOYA Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Supervisor, Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Administrative Services Division

TESTIMONY

ON

## HB 2391, HD 1 - RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS

## March 4, 2016

The Honorable Karl Rhoads Chair The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura Vice Chair and Members House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, STRONGLY OPPOSES HB 2391, HD 1.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the Director of Public Safety ("Director") to release certain pretrial and sentenced misdemeanants from community correctional centers when a community correctional center has reached capacity. The bill would give the Director to release those being held, which supercedes court orders for the inmate. We believe that giving this authority to the Director violates separation of powers.

Furthermore, the bill specifies that an inmate is not eligible for release if the inmate is:

- Was denied bail or has bail set at \$5,000 or more denied bail or bail at \$5,000 or more deals with felonies and not misdemeanors, so this provision is irrelevant;
- 2. Charged with or convicted of or is on probation or parole for a serious crime, as defined in HRS § 804-3 the section only refers to murder and Class A and B felonies, and does not include violent or dangerous misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor offenses; and

3. Arrested or convicted for Abuse of Family or Household Member.

However, inmates charged with or convicted of the following offenses WILL STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE under this bill:

- Violation of an Order for Protection (HRS § 586-11);
- Violation of a Foreign Protective Order (HRS § 586-26);
- Violation of an Injunction or Restraining Order (against harassment) (HRS § 604-10.5);
- Assault in the Third Degree (HRS § 707-712);
- Assault Against a Law Enforcement Officer in the Second Degree (HRS § 707-712.6);
- Terroristic Threatening in the Second Degree (HRS § 707-717);
- Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree (HRS § 707-722);
- Sexual Assault in the Fourth Degree (HRS § 707-733);
- Indecent Exposure (HRS § 707-734);
- Indecent electronic display to a child (HRS § 707-759);
- Extortion in the Third Degree (HRS § 707-767);
- Arson in the Fourth Degree (HRS § 708-8254);
- Endangering the Welfare of a Minor in the Second Degree (HRS § 709-904);
- Endangering the Welfare on an Incompetent Person (HRS § 709-906);
- Resisting Arrest (HRS § 710-1026);
- Disorderly Conduct (HRS § 711-1101);
- Harassment (HRS § 711-1106);
- Harassment by Stalking (HRS § 711-1106.5);
- Cruelty to Animals in the Second Degree (HRS §711-1109);
- Intentional Interference with the use of a Service Dog or Law Enforcement Animal (HRS § 711-1109.5);
- Violation of Privacy in the Second Degree (HRS § 711-1111)

These offenses are serious offenses and may be an indication of the inclination of the inmate to commit more serious offenses without intervention, education and training provided through incarceration.

This bill runs counter to the need for public safety. Accordingly, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, STRONGLY OPPOSES the passage of this bill. We ask that the bill be HELD.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org

KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA CHIEF

MARIE A, McCAULEY CARY OKIMOTO DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE DT-CG

March 4, 2016

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair and Members Committee on Judiciary House of Representatives Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2391, HD1, Relating to the Release of Certain Misdemeanants

I am Dagan Tsuchida, Major of the Pearl City Police Station, District 3, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes the passage of House Bill No. 2391, HD1, Relating to the Release of Certain Misdemeanants. This bill intends to make it possible for pre-trial and sentenced misdemeanants to be released with certain conditions to prevent overcrowding of the prisons.

The HPD has concerns with this bill as it may serve to place more criminal offenders back out on the street to commit even more crimes. It would present a potential risk to public safety and property and would tax police resources and staffing to address these crimes.

The HPD requests that your committee oppose the passage of House Bill No. 2391, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

incerel h Tsuchida, Major Daga District 3

APPROVED:

Louis M. Kealoha Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

## COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY** Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Friday, March 4, 2016 2:00 p.m. Room 325

## SUPPORT for HB 2391 HD1- RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 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 Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 2391 defines the circumstance for the Director of Public Safety to release pre-trial and sentenced misdemeanants at community correctional centers. The HD1 specifies that individuals who are not eligible for release by the Director of Public Safety shall include pretrial or sentenced misdemeanants who are convicted or arrested on suspicion of abuse of family or household members.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure and wonders why the legislativelycreated Corrections Population Management Commission<sup>1</sup> is not engaged on these issues. The statute states:

The Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC) was established through Act 343, Session Laws of Hawaii 1993. It expanded from eight to eleven members representing all three branches of state government, the county prosecuting attorney, and two community representatives. The objective for the CPMC is to "establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and to formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility" (Section 353F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes). The CPMC is administratively attached to the Department of Public Safety.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Corrections Population Management Commission - <u>http://dps.hawaii.gov/about/cpmc/</u>

This commission is composed of agencies across the criminal justice system and while our jails became the de facto mental health centers and shelters for those who are houseless there have been no policies or even discussions on how to address these social problems.

Please underscore the importance of the CPMC and encourage the department to use those resources to manage the population of their facilities. The department should not wait until the jails are severely over-crowded to address the dire situation they are in.

## HOW MUCH DOES THIS POPULATION COST TAXPAYERS?

December 7, 2015 is the latest Weekly Population Report of the Department of Public Safety that we have and at that time there were 151 sentenced misdemeanants and 130 per-trial misdemeanants incarcerated. At \$137/day, those 281 individuals statewide cost taxpayers \$38,497 a day and \$1,154,910 a month! Even if only 50% of sentenced and pre-trial misdemeanants were released, that would save at least \$500,000 a month! Think of the services that could be offered in the community with an infusion of half a million dollars a month!

Our only concern is that the department be mindful that the individuals who are released either have a place to go or are helped with placement/housing. Increasing a diverse array of services in the communities that need them would put a major dent in many of our social problems.

Jeremy Travis, president of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York said,

## "As a society we've become more and more punitive even though crime is at its lowest rate ever. We put people in prison for offenses that would have received a light sanction in former times."

Let's think long and hard about who we actually incarcerate and to what end. Are we achieving the outcomes we want? Creating a criminal underclass, by incarcerating misdemeanants and petty misdemeanants is expensive and ineffective. Let's use our resources wisely and use incarceration only as a last resort.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

"I am convinced that imprisonment is a way of pretending to solve the problem of crime. It does nothing for the victims of crime, but perpetuates the idea of retribution, thus maintaining the endless cycle of violence in our culture." Howard Zinn

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:30 PM
То:	JUDtestimony
Cc:	blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB2391 on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM*

## <u>HB2391</u>

Submitted on: 3/1/2016 Testimony for JUD on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.



## HB2391 HD1 RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS

House Committee on Judiciary

March 4, 2016 2:	:00 p.m.	Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) <u>SUPPORTS</u> HB2391 HD1. This measure may save the state millions of taxpayer dollars, as well as mitigate the disproportionate impacts of the criminal justice system on Native Hawaiians, by allowing the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to release certain pretrial and sentenced misdemeanants when correctional facilities have reached their capacities.

Decades of a traditional criminal justice approach have led to the highest prison population in Hawai'i's history. Between 1977 and 2008, the number of people incarcerated in Hawai'i has increased by more than 900 percent,<sup>1</sup> and by 1,400 percent between 1977 and the present. The Native Hawaiian community has been particularly impacted by this increase, making up 40% of our prison population today.<sup>2</sup>

Allowing the PSD Director to release certain low-level misdemeanants will afford the Director some degree of control over inhumane prison overcrowding, while potentially saving substantial state resources. OHA recognizes that the safety of the pa'ahao and the public are of paramount importance and that the logistics of implementation of such a proposal can be complex. Therefore, on these matters, we defer to the Department of Public Safety.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2391 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 17 (2010), http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir\_final\_web\_rev.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In contrast, Native Hawaiians only represent 24% of the general public in Hawai'i. *Id.* at 36. OHA's 2010 study found that the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on Native Hawaiians accumulates at every stage noting that Native Hawaiians made up "24 percent of the general population, but 27 percent of all arrests, 33 percent of people in pretrial detention, 29 percent of people sentenced to probation, 36 percent admitted to prison in 2009, [and] 39 percent of the incarcerated population." *Id.* at 10. Moreover, controlling for many common factors including type of charge, the study revealed that Native Hawaiians were more likely to be found guilty, receive a prison sentence, and receive a longer prison sentence or probation term than most other ethnic groups. *Id.* at 28-38.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:33 AM
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Cc:	leilani.maxera@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB2391 on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM*

## HB2391

Submitted on: 3/2/2016 Testimony for JUD on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

## BEACON OF HOPE HOUSE/KUMC 1216 KEOLU DRIVE KAILUA, HAWAII 96734 Phone/Email (808)386-5426/ <u>daphnehookano@yahoo.com</u>

March 2, 2016 Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair Representative Joy Buenaventura, Vice Chair House Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 2391 HD1 RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS Hearing Date: Friday, March 4, 2016 Hearing Room: Conference Room 325

## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2391 HD1**

Aloha Representative Rhodes, Representative Buenaventura, and members of the committee, My name is Daphne Ho'okano and I am the Program Director of the Beacon of Hope House that is a transitional home for women coming out of prison. I am also a student at the University of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying in support of HB 2391 HD1 relating to the release of certain misdemeanants. I believe that this bill can help to reduce the over-crowdedness that we see across the state in Community Correctional Centers. As a person who has done time in Correctional Centers, I have seen first hand how crowded OCCC and WCCC can get and when it is over-crowded, there tends to be a lack of supplies such as hygienes. clothing, etc. I feel that by releasing misdemeanants that are not a danger to society could save Hawaii and its taxpayers a lot of money.

As a society, we have become more punitive. We put people in prison for offenses that really could have lower sanctions. I think that we should think hard before we incarcerate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB2391.

Sincerely,

Daphne Ho`okano Program Director Beacon of Hope House/ Kailua United Methodist Church

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, March 01, 2016 4:59 PM
То:	JUDtestimony
Cc:	maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB2391 on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM*

#### <u>HB2391</u>

Submitted on: 3/1/2016 Testimony for JUD on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

#### Wyman Barros E-Mail: <u>barrows@hawaii.edu</u> Phone: (808) 699-6711

March 2 2016 Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair Representative Joy Buenaventura, Vice Chair House Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 2391 HD 1 RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANANTS Hearing Date: Friday, March 4 2016 Hearing Room: Conference Room 325

Dear Representative Rhodes, Buenaventura, and members of the committee. I am testifying in support of HB 2391 HD 1

Aloha Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and members of the Judiciary committee. My name is Wyman Barros and I am a student at the University of Hawaii's school of social work. I am submitting testimony for HB 2931 HD 1 Relating to the release of certain misdemeanants. I am in support of this bill for the reason that it will reduce overcrowding of our prisons by releasing inmates that are awaiting trial. These inmates will be of the lowest level inmates and of the least danger to society. Inmates with misdemeanor crimes. I feel that this will not only relieve overcrowding, but also save the state money for not having to house said inmates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Donalei Kepa-Ivester E-Mail: donaleik@hawaii.edu Phone: (808) 954-2055

March 02, 2016

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair Representative Joy Buenaventura, Vice Chair House Committee on Judiciary

#### RE: H.B. 2391 HD1, Relating to Release of Certain Misdemeanants-SUPPORT

Hearing Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 at 2:00PM Hearing Room: House Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Buenaventura, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am testifying in support of H.B.2391 HD1.

My name is Donalei Kepa-Ivester, and I will be testifying as an individual citizen.

While the inmate is on release awaiting trial or pretrial, they will be able to receive help or enter a program to help them transition to doing there time. The inmate is not the only one affected when making bad decisions, which end them up in jail. Inmates going to jail or awaiting trial also affects their families and loved ones. By passing this policy into law, the families will be able to spend a little bit more time with the inmate and the inmate will be able to make any amends to their families that are needed before going to jail. It is important for families and inmates to spend as much time together, because they don't know how long the inmate may be imprisoned or where they may go.

I have many family members that have been to prison, just came out of prison, or are still serving time. With this policy, I feel that if the inmates have an opportunity to seek some type of help to assist them in this transition of going to jail; it will help them be better prepared to leave their loved ones behind and help with changing their mind set.

Thank you for taking time to read this testimony.

Keith Billingsley Judiciary Committee HB 2391 March 4, 2016 @ 2 p.m.

I support this bill which would prevent overcrowding in the correction facilities when they become at full capacity. This bill will help to keep the more violent offenders in the correctional facilities and protect the citizens of this community.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:46 PM
То:	JUDtestimony
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Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB2391 on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM*

## HB2391

Submitted on: 3/2/2016 Testimony for JUD on Mar 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Terri Pacheco APRN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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