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STATE OF HAWAII
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COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 562
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
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LATE TESTIMONY

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

Tuesday, February 03, 2015; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 562, which would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds to PSD to establish and implement a reentry facility for criminal offenders to include residential and day reporting programs.

It is widely recognized that PSD's aged facilities statewide are severely overcrowded, poorly designed, in poor repair, and inadequate to providing adequate housing, services, and programs for our incarcerated population, including reentry programs and services similar to those identified in this bill, such as the work furlough program. Four of our correctional facilities, the Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Community Correctional Centers, have been identified by the previous State administration as requiring extensive renovation, expansion, or replacement in the immediate future.

If enacted, SB 562 would help to address some of the long-standing challenges facing our correctional facilities. PSD is fully cognizant that the long overdue overhaul of statewide correctional facilities will require significant resources, over several years and looks forward to working with the Legislature on addressing these challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this bill.