



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1187,
RELATING TO MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 1:20 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1187, the purpose of which is to make an emergency appropriation to PSD to cover the costs of the personnel services shortfall for unfunded adult corrections officers and health care professionals for the current fiscal year. PSD respectfully requests funding for an emergency appropriation of \$6,006,892 for fiscal year 2020-2021.

PSD requests \$4,806,666 for payroll shortfall at the following facilities:

Prog ID	ACO	Sum of Amount
	Sum of Perm FTE	
PSD402ED	42.00	1,281,396
PSD403EE	1.00	29,520
PSD404EF	10.00	292,932
PSD405EG	8.00	240,714
PSD406EH	36.00	1,053,924

PSD407EC	53.00	1,620,912
PSD408EI	5.00	144,204
PSD409EK	5.00	143,064
Grand Total	160.00	4,806,666

The Department operates eight distinct correctional institutions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (24/7) on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. Providing for the daily living needs of hundreds of inmates in a safe and secure setting on a 24/7 basis can only be accomplished with sufficient staffing. The deletion of the salaries of 160.0 Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) whose job is to provide these 24/7 services, including tasks related to the facilities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly reduces the ACO workforce who are essential and necessary to keeping the facilities running.

In addition, the measure requests \$1,200,226 for personnel services for health care professionals whose salaries were deleted in fiscal year 2020-2021:

Prog ID PSD 421- Health Care	PSD421HC Sum of Perm FTE	Sum of Amount
Grand Total	26.50	1,200,226

The Health Care Division is at the forefront of PSD's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The staffing for this program has been critically reduced with the deletion of the base salary for 33.50 positions, of which 26.50 are health care professionals, including physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, registered nurses, paramedical assistants, physical and occupational therapists, and psychiatric social workers. The defunding of the 26.50 positions for fiscal year 2020-2021 resulted in a substantial payroll shortfall. PSD's pandemic response plan requires all health care disciplines to provide critical health care services, assistance, and monitoring capabilities in-house at all correctional institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.