

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
**TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI**  
**DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**ON**  
**SENATE BILL NO. 2532**

**February 24, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO PRISONS**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2532.

S.B. No. 2532 does the following: 1) establish within the Department of Public Safety a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business, entrepreneurial, and financial literacy education to inmates; and 2) appropriates \$400,000 in general funds for FY 23 to implement this pilot program. Similar programs are implemented in other states and jurisdictions, such as in Virginia and District Columbia, through the collaboration of various business schools and correctional centers. This bill is intended to reduce inmate costs and afford opportunities for the inmates to succeed after their release from incarceration.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, February 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

By

Debora J. Halbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy  
University of Hawai'i System

### **SB 2532 – RELATING TO PRISONS**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2532 relating to the establishment within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) of a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this effort for the reasons described in the bill and defers to the Department of Public Safety. Reducing recidivism and providing inmates with meaningful educational opportunities will positively benefit the citizens of Hawai'i and have a positive economic benefit for the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

MAX N. OTANI  
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Tommy Johnson  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

Jordan Lowe  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2532  
RELATING TO PRISONS.**

by  
Max N. Otani, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022; 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2532, which establishes a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates.

PSD is already making strides in furthering the education of inmates. For example, the Department is a proud recipient of the Second Chance Pell grant via Chaminade University that is in its second semester of providing the first cohort of 14 students at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) with an opportunity to earn an Associate's degree in Business Administration.

Under a federal grant, the Windward Community College (WCC) Pu`uhonua Program offers 150 college credits in Business 103 and Finance courses for inmates at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). Windward CC's recent application for the Second Chance Pell grant has passed the first phase of review, and the College is currently working to submit its documents for the second/final phase. WCC reported it will be offering a business degree pathway for its students.

In addition, PSD's Corrections Programs Services Division (CPSD) has agreements with the Leeward Community College's Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (OCEWS), which include a financial literacy class available to inmates at correctional facilities on Oahu. Through the Prison Education Project, Business 101 was offered to an inmate at the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) via distance-learning, however, no college credit was earned.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted post-secondary programs, as correctional facilities statewide have had to sustain rolling quarantine/isolation lockdowns and staffing shortages resulting in program shutdowns. The CPSD's Education branch provides limited distance-learning options for its inmate population, however, the infrastructure of the facilities places limits on technology and the ability to securely connect with outside institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2532.



## **SB2532 Business Training for Offenders**

### **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 24 2022: 10:00 am : Videoconference

## **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2532:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.*

**Recommendation: A business education group would be best served if tailored to offenders according to a risk and assessment needs for behavioral health to determine different approaches based on level of severity for substance use disorders, mental health disorders and criminality.**

There are various levels of mild to chronic forms of substance use disorders, mental health disorders and even criminality. HSAC understands this very well since we treat all these issues for those who have chronic to severe levels.

The approach for mild is much different than the approach for chronic conditions.

- Moreover, research is clear that high risk offenders need to be separated from low risk offenders in service activities, at least to start until established progress is made.

HSAC recommends that offenders need nationally standardized risk levels tools as well as screening and assessment tools before grouping offenders into various groups.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.

# 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 WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 24, 2022

10:00 AM

## **SB 2532 SD1 - SUPPORT for BUSINESS EDUCATION in PRISONS**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,052 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,111 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 Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Mahalo for hearing this bill. Community Alliance on Prisons supports increasing all educational opportunities for people in prison. It is important to present a range of educational opportunities to people inside so they can plan for their reentry upon release.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:01:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikos Leverenz	Testifying for Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

## Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center supports SB 2532, which establishes a working group within the Department of Public Safety to reduce recidivism by providing business education to persons who are incarcerated.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Resilience Education testimony****February 23, 2022****Hawaii Senate Bill 2532 Relating to Prisons.  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith–Agaran,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24, 2022. This bill, as you know, establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through entrepreneurship, business and financial educational programs and initiatives. Resilience Education currently offers a program such as this in Virginia, in partnership with Darden Business School at the University of Virginia and the Virginia Department of Corrections.

One question often asked by MBA students, professors, Virginia lawmakers, and business owners is “Does your program work?” The evidence speaks for itself. For instance, our recidivism rate is lower than the state average in Virginia, and many of the men and women who earn a certificate from Resilience Education gain employment after release from prison. Evidence from other prison–based education programs sponsored by colleges and universities nationwide shows similar outcomes. In 2018, for example, RAND updated a report about a meta–analysis of research associated with academic and workforce programs inside U.S. prisons—spanning 37 years – which is the largest literature review of its type to date. The researchers concluded that incarcerated people who participate in correctional education, which includes a certificate program, have 28 percent lower odds of returning to prison than peers who did not participate in a program, and that a \$1 investment in correctional education reduces incarceration costs by \$4 to \$5 during the first three years of post–release<sup>1</sup>.

Another question asked of us is “Will incarcerated adults enroll in the course if it is offered to them?” The answer is “yes” based on over nine years of results from Resilience Education. Not



only will they enroll if offered an education program, but we have seen nearly all also complete it when provided the appropriate academic and professional support. This is true for other prison-based education programs. According to a 2021 report published by the Vera Institute of Justice, a total of 22,117 unique—or “unduplicated”—students enrolled in a postsecondary education program sponsored by Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative between 2016 and 2020. Among this group, more than 7,000 students have earned either a bachelor’s degree (540), an associate degree (3,035), or a career and technical certificate or diploma (3,499 – which accounts for nearly 50% of all postsecondary credentials earned)<sup>2</sup>.

By way of background, in 2011, Darden Dean Bob Bruner received a letter from an incarcerated man in Virginia, asking for assistance with business skills and a business plan so he could better support his teenage son post release. Darden didn’t have a solution to offer this man but Professor Greg Fairchild had an idea. What if he could deliver an entrepreneurship certificate course with MBA students inside a prison to help incarcerated people like this? The successful launch of that program in the Dillwyn men’s facility, led to an expansion to Fluvanna women’s facility, and Greg’s wife Tierney, also a Darden alum and PhD, joined him in developing two additional programs in personal finance and business and co-founding Resilience Education to help facilitate and expand the programs to other facilities, business schools and universities.

Ten years later, Resilience Education and Darden in partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections have awarded over 675 certificates to nearly 400 individuals. More than 250 Darden MBA students have taught in the programs and a number continue to mentor released graduates. While recidivism data are only preliminary, 93 percent of graduates have not returned to prison. The Virginia Department of Corrections validated the effectiveness of these evidence-based programs, recently awarding an MOA to the University of Virginia to run Resilience Education’s programs with course credit from UVA’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Our incarcerated students can now earn up to 6 credits for our courses, in addition to the certificates from Darden. And these UVA credits help students complete an associate’s or bachelor’s degree.

Further, our programs have expanded to Columbia Business School, where their MBA students teach in Sing Sing and Taconic facilities.

Anecdotally, we have seen the transformational benefits of this program, both for the incarcerated graduates and the MBAs that teach them. One of our released graduates just received a promotion and brought her company's largest federal contract (\$34M); another started her own cleaning business while working full-time. Another graduate is applying to PhD programs, while another was just accepted into a highly competitive tech training program. We have countless stories of Resilience graduates finding stable employment, if not meaningful careers. And our MBAs often tell us that the Resilience programs helped them to become better business leaders, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and empathy to make a difference in their jobs and communities. The return on an investment in the Resilience programs is clear and in an economy with such low unemployment, all our citizens should be able to contribute positively to the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. We support more universities and business schools engaging in this work and encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Sincerely,  
Resilience Education

Sources:

1. Lois M. Davis, *Higher Education Programs in Prison: What We Know Now and What Should We Focus on Going Forward* (The Rand Corporation, 2019).  
<https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE342.html>
2. Source: Kelsie Chesnut and Allan Wachendorfer (April 2021). *Second Chance Pell: Four Years of Expanding Access to Education in Prison*. Vera Institute of Justice. New York, NY, [p. 2],  
<https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/second-chance-pell-four-years-of-expanding-access-to-education-in-prison.pdf>.



**DARDEN SCHOOL  
of BUSINESS**

**Gregory B. Fairchild**  
Dean and CEO, UVA | Northern Virginia  
Associate Dean for Washington D.C. Area Initiatives  
University of Virginia Darden School of Business  
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Arlington, VA 22209 USA

**February 23, 2022**

**Hawaii Senate Bill 2532 Relating to Prisons.**

**To: Committee on Ways and Means**

**Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 2532 in Hawaii**

**Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,**

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through business education programs and initiatives.

By way of background, in 2011, Darden Dean Bob Bruner received a letter from an incarcerated man in Virginia, asking for assistance with business skills and a business plan so he could better support his teenage son post release. Darden didn't have a solution to offer this man but I, Professor Greg Fairchild, had an idea. What if we could deliver an entrepreneurship certificate course with MBA students inside a prison to help incarcerated people like this? The successful launch of that program in the Dillwyn men's facility, led to an expansion to Fluvanna women's facility, and my wife Tierney, also a Darden alum and PhD, joined me in developing two additional programs in personal finance and business and co-founding Resilience Education to help facilitate and expand the programs to other facilities, business schools and universities.

Ten years later, Resilience Education and Darden in partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections have awarded over 675 certificates to nearly 400 individuals. More than 250 Darden MBA students have taught in the programs and a number continue to mentor released graduates. While recidivism data are only preliminary, 93 percent of graduates have not returned to prison. The Virginia Department of Corrections validated the effectiveness of these evidence-based programs, recently awarding an MOA to the

University of Virginia to run these programs with course credit from UVA's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Further, our programs have expanded to Columbia Business School, where their MBA students teach in Sing Sing and Taconic facilities.

Anecdotally, we have seen the transformational benefits of this program, both for the incarcerated graduates and the MBAs that teach them. One of our released graduates just earned an insurance license; another completed the UVA's new Edge program, earning 20 credits toward her bachelor's degree. Another graduate is in the honors college at Virginia Commonwealth University, while another is the general manager of a Marriott Fairfield Inn. We have countless stories of Resilience graduates finding stable employment, if not meaningful careers. And our MBAs often tell us that the Resilience programs helped them to become better business leaders, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and empathy to make a difference in their jobs and communities. The return on an investment in the Resilience programs is clear and in an economy with such low unemployment, all our citizens should be able to contribute positively to the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. We support more universities and business schools engaging in this work and encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Sincerely,

Gregory B. Fairchild

**SB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:43:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT SB 2532 RELATING TO PRISONS.

## **MBA | Resilience Education Testimonies**

### **Darden Business School**

February 23rd, 2022

*To: Committee on Ways and Means*

*Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 2532 in Hawaii*

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,

My name is Jimmy Figueroa and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24, 2022. This bill establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

While an MBA student at Darden (Class of 2017), I was fortunate enough to have the experience of teaching students in prison through the Resilience Education program. I saw first-hand the impact that an education program could have on this population:

1. Team-building and camaraderie: These students supported one another inside and outside of the classroom in ways that would not have existed otherwise. They helped one another understand complex concepts, added advice to improve business ideas, and openly shared personal perspectives that broadened the learning environment.
2. Self-motivation: The group of students I taught were self-motivated and applied themselves to mastering the curriculum. Their effort was on par, if not greater, than levels of effort I've seen from peers through personal classroom experiences. It was amazing to see the level of effort given by a group of individuals, who in most cases, had grown up in education environments where they were not afforded this quality of education and had started to believe they were not "good students".
3. Positive intent: Each week these students were able to step outside of their daily routine and practice skills that could support their lives once released. Their ambition was profound and they shared a passion for wanting to make a positive impact within their community if given the opportunity. Given the right support and attention we hoped that these ambitions could translate into reality.



Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Sincerely,  
Jimmy Figueroa  
San Francisco, CA

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran, ,

My name is Jennifer Rose and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to teach in the Darden prison program while an MBA student at Darden. I graduated in 2019 and now am in management consulting in Atlanta, Georgia.

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand how the Darden program helped my students grow and develop as individuals. As we taught business fundamentals, I watched my students come to life, learning new concepts and getting excited for when they would be released and could put the new ideas into action. From understanding interest rates, to how to buy a house, to how credit cards work, many of these topics were unfamiliar or complicated to our students at first. That is until class when we talked through the details or logistics of the topic. Suddenly, what used to be challenging and intimidating was understandable, actionable, and would eventually be something they could incorporate into their life (such as buying a house). I watched them fill with hope as they prepared to re-enter society better equipped to handle life after prison. The learning went two-ways, which is why a university partner is so important.

My peers and I who taught each week gained so much from our students. They taught us resilience, how to handle adversity with humor, patience with frustrating systems, humility, kindness, honesty, and strength. I think of my students often and how much I learned from their resilience and it is my sincere hope Hawaii will consider the benefits of this program, for the students, the teachers, and the broader community. With more individuals able to handle the demands of participating properly in society, the more productive and prosperous our communities will be.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any further questions.

Sincerely,





Jennifer Rose

Atlanta, Georgia

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,

My name is Michael Feng, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I was fortunate to teach in Darden education programs while an MBA student in 2018–2019. It was a fantastic program that gave me an opportunity to connect with the community and give back to people who really appreciated our time and effort. How the program is run is a huge part of this, and Resilience education has the right mission and values to make a program like this successful. I saw firsthand that the partnership between Resilience, Darden, and the Virginia department of corrections was a great partnership that everyone involved was able to benefit from. Resilience did a great job of coordinating and aligning visions and the outcomes have been fantastic. The students are always engaged and thankful, and go on to improve their lives post-release; the educators learn and get to give back. I'm grateful that I chose to join the program and it will always be with me.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for letting me share,

Mike Feng,

Boston, MA,

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,

My name is Semyon Shtulberg, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I have seen the impact this type of program can have on citizens re-entering society after incarceration. I was fortunate to teach in Darden programs while an MBA student. I graduated in 2012 and now am working in health care strategy.

I offer this testimony because I saw first-hand how the Darden Prisoner Entrepreneurship program helped my students gain skills that would help them thrive once back in their communities. The learning went two-ways, which is why a university partner is so important. As much as the program benefited its students it equally had a profound impact on my own perceptions and understanding of men and women serving time in prison. The compassion and empathy that I gained from the program will stay with me forever and undoubtedly shape my decisions as a business leader.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Sincerely,

Semyon Shtulberg

Milwaukee, WI



## **Formerly Incarcerated Graduates | Resilience Education Testimonies**

### **Darden Business School**

February 23rd, 2022

*To: Committee on Ways and Means*

*Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 2532 in Hawaii*

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,

My name is Richard Boye, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and Initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to take the Darden programs while incarcerated at Dillwyn Correctional Center. I received Darden certificates in Financial Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Capstone. I served 28.25 years and have been home for 4 years.

I am excited to offer this testimony because the Darden programs helped me gain basic financial skills, like using a bank, making budgets, learning how credit works, and using a credit card. I also developed interesting learning skills through the Socratic method. I learned how to develop and present a viable business plan, which helped my public speaking skills. All of these skills allowed me to open a bank account and apply for a credit card; which started me on the road to building a credit score after my release. I was also able to present and sell myself to prospective employers, which ultimately allowed me to land an incredible job with Buckingham Branch Railroad. I especially enjoyed learning the Socratic method of learning. It was so much easier for me to learn and retain the information. It was a light bulb moment in learning for me. The instructors (Dr's Greg and Tierney Fairchild), MBA instructors, were more helpful to me in preparing me for useful release knowledge than any class I took while incarcerated, and I took a lot of classes. I appreciated the opportunity to gain these important credentials from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Today, I am a happily married man who has been writing an incredible chapter of my life after incarceration. I can honestly say that the Darden Resilience Program would be a vital tool in preparing individuals for release and being successful upon release. I watched for over 28 years the revolving door and know that this program offers and delivers what one can really utilize after incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Sincerely,  
Richard L. Boye  
Charleston, SC

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,

My name is Robin, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to take the Darden programs while incarcerated at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. I received Darden certificates in Entrepreneurship, Financial Capabilities, and Capstone. I served 18 and a half years and have been home 2 months shy of 4 years.

I am excited to offer this testimony because the Darden programs helped me gain social, financial, and life skills, which allowed me to become employed, find housing, and create a foundation for myself after my release. I especially enjoyed the students and the way they not only engaged the class through their teaching method, but how they believed in my ability to become a success and not a statistic. The opportunity to gain these important credentials from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia changed my life for the better in more ways than I can count.

Today, I am living and working in Roanoke, VA. I have a lovely town home and I'm in the process of saving a down payment to purchase a home of my own. I have paid nearly all of the restitution that I owe and have been moved to low-risk probation monitoring. I am making a wonderful salary working for an AV company as a Sales Rep, Marketing Director, and Product specialist. I recently got married, and I am living the dreams I had as a young girl before becoming incarcerated at the age of 15 and spending most of my young adult life in prison. Without Darden, I would not have had the confidence to become productive and successful in my community. The Darden program prepared me for what I was about to face upon my release.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532. I know that the Darden program can help someone else like me if you will pass this Bill.

Thank you so much for allowing me to share,

Robin Martin  
Roanoke, VA

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith–Agaran,

Graduating from Darden has had an immensely positive impact on my life since my release six and a half years ago. I was able to become an extremely active student leader at a local community college because of the skills and experience that I gained in Darden. I am currently an honors student at Virginia Commonwealth University double majoring in psychology and sociology with the aim of earning a doctorate and becoming a professor one day. I would not be where I am today if not for Darden.

Stephanie C.

Richmond, Virginia

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith–Agaran,

My name is Barbara Hurst, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

I support this bill because I was fortunate to take the Darden programs while incarcerated at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in Troy, Virginia. I received Darden certificates in all three programs (Financial Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Foundations in Business). This was my second incarceration for embezzlement, and I served 46 months. I have been home for over 4 years.

I am excited to offer this testimony because the Darden programs helped me gain numerous skills and helped me become the businesswoman I am today. Today I own my own business consulting firm, and my services include writing business plans, grant proposals, financial plans, marketing, and more. I was blessed to work in partnership with other volunteers at Fluvanna and Resilience Education while I was incarcerated to write “Achieving Success in Personal Finance”. This course is a modified version of the Financial Capability course but is focused more on helping inmates who are leaving incarceration within one year and who do not have time to take the other Darden Programs. This program also addresses habits regarding financial matters.

Regarding the courses, I especially enjoyed working with one of the MBA instructors, Kelly Gerhardt, who was my mentor for my business plan. She was so welcoming, accepting, and gave me great guided wisdom in my business plan. Her constructive criticism was welcomed and appreciated. Additionally, I LOVE the case method approach to teaching; it allows for open discussion with participants and is a fantastic way to learn! I learned so much while taking these three courses, and one of the biggest concerns (fears) I had was how I was going to pay back my nearly \$370,000 in restitution and \$3,500 in court fines. I was paralyzed with fear that I would



not be able to pay the \$500 a month restitution payment I was required to pay and that I would be violated because I couldn't pay it. After taking Financial Capability, this fear was completely removed, and I had a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan to pay this off. I am hopeful that I will be able to pay this off within 5 years, and nothing will make me happier than to fully repay what I owe. I have already paid off all of my court fines.

The Darden programs helped challenge me to continue address my wrong ways of thinking about money and so much more. These Programs also helped me to know who I really am, grow in self-confidence, and also helped me in my marriage. I was blessed to come back home to my husband and grown son; however, I was very concerned about how I would ever pay that amount of money back in my lifetime. My husband and I have been married for over 30 years and have grown in leaps and bounds since I came home, and the healing we have had, with God's help, has been astounding. We have the most fun, wonderful marriage today, a marriage I had only dreamt of having while I was incarcerated and after causing so much hurt and pain to those I loved and to my community. All I want to do is to help make it right by giving back all that I can.

Lastly, one of the most amazing things about the Darden Programs was that we were treated with dignity and respect, despite the mistakes we had made in our lives. When we walked into these classrooms, it was like we walked into a different world, a world where people believed in us, supported us, and it helped us see beyond the prison walls and into the future. These programs and amazing people helped me become the best version of myself. To be able to take and complete these programs has been the most incredible privilege and honor. I appreciate the opportunity to gain these important credentials from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. I cannot even begin to express to you how incredibly grateful I am for Drs. Gregory and Tierney Fairchild and their Team, including all of the MBA instructors. To say that I was given a second chance in life does not even begin to express the depth of gratitude I have.

Today, I live in Manassas, Virginia, and I own and operate Creative Consulting, LLC ([www.creativeconsulting-llc.com](http://www.creativeconsulting-llc.com)). My business helps me to pay my \$500 a month restitution, in addition to being able to partner with others that I consult with that pay substantially more, in hopes to pay off my restitution in full within five years. Without Darden, I never would have been able to do and accomplish what I have since my release in October 2017. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

I am available anytime should you wish to ask any other questions at (703) 624-3132.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Hurst  
Manassas, Virginia

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Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith–Agaran,

So many individuals like myself are incarcerated for decades and as the outside world evolves ours stands still.

I was truly grateful for the experience and knowledge I've obtained from participating in these programs because they have assisted me through my reintegration process. It has been 3 years since my release from prison and although I am not financially literate to the level I want to be, Thanks to the Resilience Program and all I've learned, I am well on my way. The skies the limit for me!

Leah Faria,

Brooklyn,

New York



**LATE**

## MBA | Resilience Education Testimonies

### Darden Business School

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

*To: Committee on Ways and Means*

*Re: Testimony for Senate Bill 2532 in Hawaii*

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran,

My name is Justin Trinidad, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2532, Relating to Prisons, scheduled for hearing on February 24th, 2022. This bill establishes a pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives.

As a current MBA student at Darden, I have had the privilege of teaching business foundations to students in prison through the Resilience Education program. In the last semester, I have seen the positive impact that an education program has on incarcerated individuals.

I offer this testimony because I have seen firsthand how the Darden program helped my students grow and develop as individuals. As I taught business fundamentals, I watched my students express their desires to create positive change in their communities and how they can apply the new concepts they learned for when they will be released. From understanding business cash flows, to networking to find job opportunities and how to succeed in a job interview, many of these topics were unfamiliar or complicated to our students at first. Students were able to grapple with my questions, practice with their peers, and really internalize key lessons. What was initially a challenge became practical and useful for their future outside of prison. I was particularly inspired by their fall semester final projects in which they outlined a post-release transition plan. They all came out of the program with very concrete and realistic next steps on how they can find their next careers and start successful businesses. I am very optimistic that because of this program, they will never spend another day in prison once released.

My peers and I who taught each week also gained so much from our students. My goal for business school was always to apply my skill set to help improve life outcomes for underserved populations. This program has done that and more as I continually get inspired from my students' resilience and their ability to handle adversity. I think of my students often and am excited to get back into the classroom.

Having worked closely with the Native Hawaiian community in my prior nonprofit work, it is vital that the Hawaii legislature consider the benefits of this program for its marginalized communities. The students, teachers, and the broader community have a lot to gain from such a program, and I am confident that society as a whole will greatly benefit. With more individuals able to handle the demands of participating effectively in society, the more productive and prosperous our communities will be.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony. I strongly encourage you to vote to pass SB 2532.

Sincerely,  
Justin Trinidad  
Charlottesville, VA