



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature
2023 Regular Session**

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by:

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill 712, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Corrections.

Purpose: The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawai‘i. The program requires the curriculum to include a level 1 trauma-informed care course designed for adult corrections officers.

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary SUPPORTS the intent of this measure, and recognizes the need for a trauma-informed approach across the justice system.

Many people who come into our courts have experienced trauma in their lives, which can have lasting adverse effects on long-term mental and physical health. In addition, it can influence behavior and limit an individual’s ability to effectively participate in the judicial process. Understanding trauma and implementing trauma-informed practices can improve outcomes. We regularly make training on trauma-informed care available to our judges and court staff, and are supportive of this opportunity for adult corrections officers to have a trauma-informed certification program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Della Teraoka, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 712 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 712 SD2 HD1, which creates a Trauma Informed Care Course designed for Adult Corrections Officers (ACO's) taught by Windward Community College (WCC).

This coursework, deeper than a short training, is urgently needed. According to the Center for Disease Control, 97% of inmates have had at least one traumatic childhood experience. A large national study found that 40.1% of female inmates and 17.8% of male inmates suffer from PTSD. Other studies have found 30% of male inmates have current PTSD symptoms and 60% have lifetime PTSD. Incarceration compounds potential trauma related issues, as it is an environment where the incarcerated feel a lack of personal control over situations and their own safety. Due to this, individuals may remain in a constant state high alert due to concern for personal safety and may be triggered by perceived threats and actions and/or interactions which remind them of past trauma. This can lead to inappropriate responses, including aggression, violence, anxiety, depression and self-harm. Suicide is the leading cause of jail deaths nationwide. These impacts of trauma create a negative environment for the incarcerated individual, fellow prisoners and the prison staff.

Trauma Informed coursework helps those serving incarcerated populations to better manage this population through understanding the impact of trauma. ACO's will be provided information on the lifelong effects of trauma, recovery needs and implementation of trauma-focused treatment interventions, including evidence based best practice. Trauma triggers and examples of calming and grounding strategies will be discussed to help staff conduct their work more effectively and with less frustration. Vicarious trauma impacting correctional staff and suggestions for self-care will also be explored. Through this deeper exploration, those completing the coursework become best equipped to handle difficult situations that arise and support their coworkers. This deeper study (i.e. rather than 30 minute or one day trainings) creates expertise and leadership while addressing issues to decrease workplace frustration and prevent burnout.

WCC is able to offer this course statewide both online and through a hub and spoke model in partnership with sister community colleges. The coursework can be completed in asynchronous, online classes, which can be taken at the employees' convenience and do not require a specific time in class or a specific location. Classes could also be offered in person at given facilities requesting this.

WCC has the expertise and experience to offer this in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (PSD). The program is based on our Mental Health Technician certificate developed in collaboration with the Hawai'i State Hospital and specific to the needs of workers and their context here in Hawai'i. WCC has been providing significant credit-based college education to incarcerated students since 2017.

This Trauma Informed Care Coursework positively impacts the prison environment for both workers and incarcerated individuals. This can have further positive impacts on retaining staffing due to decreased workplace frustration. This is important given the high turnover and staffing insufficiencies faced by PSD.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 712 SD2 HD1, as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 712 SD2 HD1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN
(ret.)
HON. RONALD IBARRA
(ret.)
TED SAKAI
MARTHA TORNEY

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 712, House Draft 1, Relating to Corrections
Hearing: Wednesday, March 29, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) strongly **supports** Senate Bill 712, House Draft 1, Relating to Adult Corrections Officers; UH; Windward Community College; and Trauma-informed Certification Program. This bill appropriates moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawai'i.

According to the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women (NRCJIW), one of the most common experiences shared by those who are incarcerated is a history of trauma. Research has shown that the effects of trauma can be significant and long lasting and are often times directly linked to the onset of substance abuse, mental health challenges, and criminal behavior. Experts recommend that all systems (medical, mental health, corrections, etc.) be trauma-informed and that professionals in these systems adopt universal precautions when working with individuals. Universal precautions require the assumption that a trauma history is present with all individuals interacted with, and to interact with them in a trauma-informed manner.

For some individuals, jails, prisons, and detention centers can further contribute to or be the source of trauma. The bright lights, loud noises, questioning by officers and staff, harsh physical handling/movement, restrictions, and sparse living quarters can be triggering. Triggers, if not handled appropriately, can result in assaults, suicide attempts, fights, and self-mutilation. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint (NCTIC), Correctional facilitates can curb trauma-reactive symptoms within their populations with the following key components of trauma-informed care:

- Recognizing the impact of trauma on multiple areas of life and different paths to recovery.

- Being aware of the signs and symptoms of trauma.
- Structuring policies and practices that account for and are sensitive to people's potential trauma histories.
- Seeking to prevent re-traumatization

The Commission believes that encouraging officers to become trauma-informed will assist the officers in understanding an individual's history of trauma, understand their responses to trauma, and recognize the pathways survivors take in navigating safety and recovery. Taking these steps is imperative to having a therapeutic and rehabilitative corrections system. For these reasons, we support this bill.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-900-2200 or at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 712, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

By

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 29, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and via Video Conference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees:

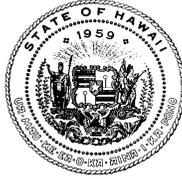
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 712, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1, which seeks to appropriate funds to Windward Community College (WCC) to support a Level I trauma-informed care certification program for Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) that is based on an existing course implemented by the WCC for mental health technicians at Hawai'i state hospital, which has already been proven successful.

PSD's ACOs may benefit from this voluntary trauma-informed care certification training in interacting with individuals in the corrections and rehabilitation system, who have experienced serious trauma during their lifetime.

ACOs wishing to participate in trauma-informed care certification training would do so on their own personal time at no cost to PSD or the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 712, SD2, HD1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 712, S.D. 2, H.D. 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Rm. 308/VIDEO

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) strongly supports this
3 measure and offers comments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) provides the following
5 testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii (UH),
7 Windward Community College (WCC) to support an eight- or sixteen-week Level I trauma-
8 informed certification program during the 2023-2024 academic year at no cost to adult
9 corrections officers employed by the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

10 The Department is committed to developing a system of care that is trauma-informed.
11 This commitment includes supporting efforts to train staff on basic trauma-informed principles.
12 Trauma-informed criminal justice responses can help avoid re-traumatizing individuals.
13 According to the Adverse Child Experiences (ACE) study, exposure to abuse, neglect,
14 discrimination, violence and other adverse experiences increase an individual’s lifelong
15 potential for serious health problems and potential engagement in health-risk behaviors.

1 Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) are exposed to working conditions that can have a
2 negative impact on their health and safety. Providing support to ACOs should include
3 education that focuses on wellness and resilience, and provide core knowledge about the
4 impact of trauma on mental, physical and emotional health. This specialized training can help
5 ACOs to better manage the challenges of their job.

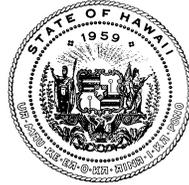
6 WCC established the Mental Health Technician Certificate program in Spring 2022. This
7 certificate program provides introductory training to those entering or currently employed in
8 the mental health service field. Courses in psychology, conflict resolution and mediation have
9 provided graduates with essential skills that directly impact their ability to perform their jobs,
10 including graduates who are employed at the Hawaii State Hospital.

11 We are very aware of the impact trauma has on individuals, families and communities
12 and are ready and willing to support efforts to provide specialized training to ACOs, including
13 those working at the Women’s Community Correctional Center.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



RICHARD RIES, Psy.D., M.Ed.
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the
House Committee on Finance
in SUPPORT of S.B. 712 S.D.2 H.D. 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

Richard I. Ries PsyD, MEd

1st VICE CHAIRPERSON

Katherine Aumer, PhD

2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON

Kathleen Merriam, LCSW CSAC

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Jon Fujii, MBA

Heidi Ilyavi

Jackie Jackson, CFPS

Chris Knightsbridge, MAIR, MACL

Kau'i Seguancia

Lea Dias, MEd

Jean Okudara, CSAC

Ray Rice, MEd

Mary Pat Waterhouse

Kristin Will, MACL, CSAC

EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

WEBSITE:

scmh.hawaii.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS:

[doh.scmhchairperson@
doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.scmhchairperson@doh.hawaii.gov)

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, establishes the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The SCMH supports this measure to make a trauma-informed care certification program available to adult corrections officers (ACOs). SCMH members recognize the appropriateness of developing this certification program for a critical group of workers who can impact the mental health and well-being of those inside the corrections facilities and their family members..

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.

VISION : A Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice.

MISSION: To advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
In Support of S.B. No. 712, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Corrections

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **SUPPORTS** S.B. No. 712, SD2, HD1, Relating to Corrections.

Established through Act 291, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, OWR will address barriers and build wellness and resilience through trauma-informed, strengths-based strategies and support agencies in their efforts to address trauma-informed care and move toward a collaborative, shared purpose of collective system reform.

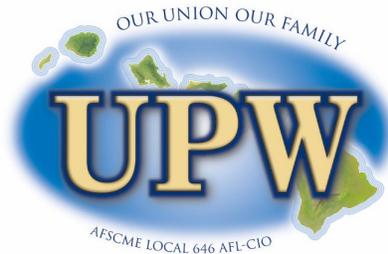
The Act 209 Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021) is currently developing a trauma-informed care framework for the state and the OWR will be working to implement this framework. Additionally, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health is currently offering the first course at a Hawai'i state university on trauma-informed care (TIC) in the Master of Social Work program. As the director of the OWR, former chair of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and one of the developers of the syllabus for the UHM TIC course, I am very interested in collaborating and supporting the development of this certification program. The OWR is dedicated to establishing a coordinated approach on how trauma-informed care is being implemented throughout the state.

As negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to show up in our daily lives, implementing trauma-informed approaches and responses throughout our state practices is critical. The certification program will further support the goal of system reform in Hawai'i and allow for a well-rounded approach to the reformation system. The OWR **strongly supports** the purpose of SB712, SD2, HD1 to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at Windward Community College.

Mahalo,

Tia L. R. Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA

Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SB712, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) **strongly supports** SB712, SD2, HD1, which appropriates moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawaii for adult corrections officers (“ACOs”). This bill also requires the curriculum to include a level I trauma-informed care course designed for ACOs.

As the exclusive bargaining representative for the correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, UPW recognizes that a significant proportion of the individuals in Hawaii’s correctional facilities have experienced serious trauma during their lifetimes. The establishment of a Level 1 trauma-informed certification program would allow ACOs to better recognize the symptoms of trauma exhibited by inmates. Training in trauma-informed care could also be beneficial in allowing ACOs to recognize signs of work-related trauma displayed by their co-workers.

While we strongly support the proposed training offered to ACOs free of charge, UPW would like to note that there are challenges ACOs would need to overcome to access this certification program. Due to current staffing shortages and mandatory overtime, ACOs would likely be unable to regularly attend courses proposed in the bill without the support of and consideration from the Department of Public Safety.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Honorable Senator Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Honorable Senator Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

TIME: 2:00 PM, Via Videoconference & Conference Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 712 SD2 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

[Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice](#) (HFRJ) strongly supports this measure appropriating funds necessary for Windward Community College (WCC) to create and provide a trauma informed certification program for adult correctional offices.

HFRJ has studied best practices [for youth](#) since 1980. In 2004 HFRJ began studying and working with state adult prisons working to develop evidence based knowledge and what works to [decrease incarceration](#) and increase peaceful behavior. HFRJ's experiences working in the prisons indicate that incarcerated people in Hawai'i suffer from a disproportionate share of [childhood abuse, neglect, and trauma](#). This is true for [other states](#) as well.

This bill would give WCC the means to create and provide a "level I trauma-informed certification program" for state adult correctional officers (ACOs). This would be for officers who *volunteer for the training*. While the state should require all ACOs to have knowledge about trauma informed care because most incarcerated people have experienced significant trauma, this program is for those ACOs who actively seek out more specialized training.

There are important differences in programs and learning when one is required to learn something compared to when one chooses to learn something, and earn a certification based on their individual efforts. A college certification is proposed here, which is different from mandating and requiring someone to learn something. This difference was discussed when continuing education was originally [suggested for nurses over 40 years ago](#): *Requirements for voluntary continuing education programs are higher than those required by most licensing boards to meet their mandatory requirements. This is because it is a recognition program, and the recognition represents an achievement beyond the minimal requirements established by licensing boards.*

The ACOs that choose to earn this trauma-informed certification would likely become assets to the Department of Public Safety (PSD) in role modeling the value in learning this vital subject. They would also provide specialized information to other ACOs and staff who know only what PSD requires them to learn. If PSD were most concerned with advancing trauma informed care in its institutions, it would give the ACOs who earned this certification pay increases.

Hawai'i in general [lacks training](#) opportunities for corrections professionals and especially in trauma informed care, which is vital for assisting incarcerated people and for those who work with them. Our state jails and prisons are our [de facto mental institutions](#). Corrections professionals need special skills to help the incarcerated. These skills can also help keep correctional staff and others safe while performing their duties. This measure would help address important needs and create a more rehabilitative and professional environment by creating a voluntary certification program.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's support or would like more details about our testimony, please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at lorenn@hawaii.edu or (808) 218-3712.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB712, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports SB712, SD2, HD1 which would establish a basic Trauma-Informed Care Course designed for Adult Corrections Officers and provided by Windward Community College (WCC). WCC has previously designed and successfully implemented a similar course for mental health workers at the Hawaii State Hospital, and has demonstrated the capacity to effectively work with state institutions to facilitate change in staff behavior and attitudes.

The 2019 HCR 85 TASK FORCE Report to the legislature emphasized the need for trauma informed care training for corrections staff, especially in the Women's Community Correctional Center.

Research has consistently found that a high percentage of incarcerated persons have experienced extensive trauma, often since childhood. The prevalence of trauma, including sexual assault and abuse is particularly high among women. Traumatized individuals are often easily triggered by interactions and procedures that raise feelings and memories associated with past trauma, especially in an environment where others have power and control over them. This can lead to aggression and resistance or to depression, anxiety and suicidality, affecting the safety of both staff and the inmates themselves.

By understanding the impact of trauma and approaching interactions and procedures in a trauma-informed manner, the rate of re-traumatization and the incidence of aggressive or self-harming behavior can be reduced. Trauma-informed environments and staff are more successful at rehabilitation. Trauma-informed responses are important to reducing recidivism. Hawaii's recidivism rate is among the highest in the country. If Hawaii's corrections system is to move toward a more rehabilitative approach, trauma-informed training of staff is necessary.

Women's Prison Project urges the legislature to pass SB712, SD2, HD1 and invest in a more effective corrections system by appropriating funds to Windward Community College to initiate Trauma-Informed Care Training for the Adult Corrections Officers who interact daily with the people in Hawaii's prisons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Rich,
On behalf of Women's Prison Project



SB712 SD2 HD1 Train Correction Officers about Trauma

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023: 2:00 : Room 308 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB712 SD2 HD1

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 and recovery services.

Several states, including Hawaii at WCCC, report positive results in training correction officers.¹

Massachusetts Correctional Institute

- Trained all staff on trauma informed approaches,
- Implemented a Peer Support group,
- Implemented an Intensive Mental Health Crisis program.

Hawaii WCCC

- Changed physical environment with a trauma lens framework,
- Educated staff and women offenders about trauma and the effects of trauma.

Massachusetts Framingham Facility

- Created sensory rooms.
- Implemented five core values of trauma-informed-care: Safety, Choice, Trustworthiness, Collaboration, and Empowerment,.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Each institution experienced notable **decrease in inmate on inmate and staff on inmate for assaults, the use of segregation, use of restraints, suicide attempts, and the need for suicide watch.**

TIC has also empowered incarcerated individuals, and helped build coping skills when triggered. Correctional officers (CO) are more informed and operate from a trauma lens, with this approach CO's are building relationships with incarcerated individuals.

¹ Corrections/Trauma Informed CARE: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://traumainformedoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Corrections-Trauma-Informed-Care-infographic.pdf>

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

3/29/23

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Time: 2:00 PM

Location: State Capitol

Re: SB 712, SD2, HD1 Relating to Corrections

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong** support of SB 712, SD2, HD1 relating to corrections;

This bill will appropriate funds for the trauma-informed certification program at Windward Community College for adult corrections officers.

The majority, if not all, of those in correctional facilities suffer from trauma of some sort. The people who interact with those in the facilities the most, the corrections officers, should have adequate training and be educated on trauma-informed care.

Providing trauma-informed care training can further help to reduce retraumatizing vulnerable individuals and ensure a successful rehabilitation process. Ultimately, the training will provide a higher sense of safety and well-being for incarcerated individuals and staff.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 11:24:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann S. Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in full support of SB712 and suggest that training on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) be included in the trauma informed curriculum. Research estimates that

- >45% of adults with FASD may have problems with alcohol/drugs. (Stressguth, A.P., et al., *J Dev Behav Pediatr*, 2004).
- ~60% of individuals with FASD may be charged with a crime. (ABA, 2012; SAMHSA, 2007).
- ~95% of individuals with FASD may be diagnosed with a mental illness (ibid.)

FASD are brain-related disorders with behavioral symptoms. I urge that those who teach the curriculum include a screening for FASD and FASD-informed care in the criminal justice system. Trauma often accompanies FASD and traditional trauma-informed care should be modified to accommodate the individual affected by FASD.

My hope is that people who are incarcerated are properly diagnosed and offered proper treatment. I strongly urge the committee to amend or strongly recommend that FASD be included in the curriculum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., LMFT

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 11:40:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in full support of SB712 and suggest that training on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) be included in the trauma informed curriculum. Research estimates that

- >45% of adults with FASD may have problems with alcohol/drugs. (Stressguth, A.P., et al., *J Dev Behav Pediatr*, 2004).
- ~60% of individuals with FASD may be charged with a crime. (ABA, 2012; SAMHSA, 2007).
- ~95% of individuals with FASD may be diagnosed with a mental illness (ibid.)

FASD are brain-related disorders with behavioral symptoms. I urge that those who teach the curriculum include a screening for FASD and FASD-informed care in the criminal justice system. Trauma often accompanies FASD and traditional trauma-informed care should be modified to accommodate the individual affected by FASD.

My hope is that people who are incarcerated are properly diagnosed and offered proper treatment. I strongly urge the committee to amend or strongly recommend that FASD be included in the curriculum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kencihi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 11:09:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a ten-year volunteer at WCCC, I fully support SB712. It's critical to establish basic trauma Informed care courses at WCCC to ensure that Adult Corrections officers can do their best jobs and improve conditions and processes in our facilities. Windward Community College is known for it's successful course for mental health workers at the Hawaii State Hospital which has proven how effective workers have been able to implement greater capacity and more effective systems within state institutions that facilitate improved understanding and staff behavior. Trauma needs treatment, not punishment. Everyone suffers from some level of trauma, so I urge you to pass SB712 SD2 HD1 as it will benefit all parties within the corrections as well as health systems. Mahalo nui.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:20:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Colleen Rost-Banik. I write in support of SB712.

Through Windward Community College, I have taught sociology courses within the Women's Community Correctional Center for the past 5 years. During this time, I have seen many adult correctional officers' interactions with the women who are incarcerated. Training around trauma and trauma-informed care would be extremely beneficial for the correctional officers.

Please support SB712 and fund Trauma Informed Coursework through Windward Community College for Adult Correctional Officers, the staff who oversee the people who society have often been the most traumatized.

Mahalo for your time.

Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:54:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Wayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This important bill enables the provision of trauma-informed staff in the women's prison, which will ensure that incarcerated women are treated more humanely in ways that will also affect their rehabilitation once they are released. Staff members who are trained in dealing with trauma are long overdue in these environments.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:46:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Dorado Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB712, which provides Trauma Informed coursework to Adult Corrections Officers in Hawaii. This is extremely important training for those who are working with incarcerated individuals. Mahalo!

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:25:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB712 SD2 HD1.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:50:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB712 provides scholarship assistance for those who need assistance as they train for careers as correction officers. Hawaii is in need of more trained correction officers and SB712 is a crucial component in making that happen.

Thank you for your consideration of my strong support of SB712.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:56:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Most women in prison have experienced multiple traumas in their lives. So any training on trauma informed care for the staff can be so beneficial to both the inmate and the staff.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Nelson

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:06:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Kamaunu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that will help educate the correctional officers to help the prison be a safer environment not just for the inmates but staff as well. Please support and allow this to pass. Mahalo.

SB-712-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:24:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vi Schap	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

BILL: SB712 SD2 HD1

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the Committee on Finance,

As a Master of Social Work student at UH Manoa, I am taught throughout my program that we must complete our work with a trauma-informed lens. **I am in favor of SB712 because I believe there is a significant disparity between trauma-informed care and our criminal justice system.** SB712 would provide funding for a step in the right direction in creating a compassionate, educated correctional system.

Hawaii is unique in its impact of historical and generational trauma, though consideration is grossly overlooked for incarcerated individuals. Often, systemic issues contribute largely to individuals committing crimes, and those incarcerated need support more than ever to survive and thrive in our society.

When it is understood that rehabilitative justice prevents recidivism and crime, our society will be a stronger, safer environment. We must keep taking measures to help those incarcerated, rather than pure punitive justice. **I believe those who take on the job of a corrections officer, must be educated with a trauma-informed, empathetic lens** where they can see those incarcerated as individuals rather than the charge they are incarcerated for.

Having power over another individual can have dire consequences, as has been seen in the famous Zimbardo prison study (Zimbardo 1974). **Noting the power dynamics created by incarceration, those employed must be accurately educated on psychology, history, and through a trauma-informed lens.**

I believe SB 712 has the potential for lowering recidivism rates and is a necessary step in creating a more ethical and compassionate environment for those incarcerated. The funding for this cause is absolutely necessary.

Thank you,

Vi Schap

MSW Candidate, UH Manoa