JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



### STATE OF HAWAII HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 (808) 587-4160 MARK PATTERSON

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

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

TO: The Honorable Mark H. Hashem, Chair

The Honorable Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair

Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 712, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Corrections

Hearing: Wednesday, March 15, 2023; 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 430

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) strongly **supports** Senate Bill 712, Senate 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.

Senate Bill 712, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Corrections House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans Wednesday, March 15, 2023 Page 2

- 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 <a href="mailto:christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov">christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov</a>. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committees on Corrections, Military & Veterans
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
In Support of S.B. No. 712, SD2, Relating to Corrections

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun and members of the committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **SUPPORTS** S.B. No. 712, SD2, 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 in the Master of Social Work program. As the executive director of the OWR, having been the recent chair of the TIC Task Force and assisted in the development of the syllabus for the UHM TIC course, I am very interested to collaborate and help support 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 OWR supports the purpose of SB712, SD2, to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at Windward community college.

vianaic

Tia L R Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA Executive Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience Office of the Governor

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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

SB 712 SD2 - RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 712 SD2, 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 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (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 of 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.

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 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, 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR





## STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu

1177 Alakea Street Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 TOMMY JOHNSON DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin Deputy Director Administration

Michael J. Hoffman Acting Deputy Director Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

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

By Tommy Johnson, Director Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair, Representative Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 15, 2023; 10:00 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and via Video Conference

#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

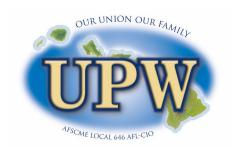
Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 712, Senate Draft (SD) 2 which seeks to appropriate monies 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.



# HOUSE OF REPRESENATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

#### **COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS**

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 10:00 AM Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

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

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") <u>strongly supports</u> SB712, SD2 which appropriates moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers ("ACOs") at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawaii. 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,

Kalani Werner State Director

### COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:00 AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 430 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

#### STRONG SUPPORT SB712 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

Women's Prison Project strongly supports SB712 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 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 and invest in a more effective corrections system by appropriating \$100,000 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



#### COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 TIME: 10:00 AM, Via Videoconference & Conference Room 430

#### STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 712 SD2 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

<u>Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice</u> (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 <u>for youth</u> since 1980. In 2004 HFRJ began studying and working with state adult prisons working to develop evidence based knowledge and what works to <u>decrease incarceration</u> and increase peaceful behavior. HFRJ's experiences working in the prisons indicate that incarcerated people in Hawai'i suffer from a disproportionate share of <u>childhood abuse</u>, <u>neglect</u>, <u>and trauma</u>. This is true for <u>other states</u> 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 <u>lacks training</u> 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 <u>de facto mental institutions</u>. 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 <a href="mailto:lorenn@hawaii.edu">lorenn@hawaii.edu</a> or (808) 218-3712.



#### The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

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

#### House Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair Representative Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. State Capitol Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by:

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill 712, S.D. 2, 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 disigned for adult corrections officers.

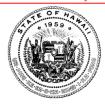
#### Judiciary's Position:

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.

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



#### STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

# Testimony to the Senate Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans In SUPPORT of S.B. 712 SD2 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Wednesday March 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

#### CHAIRPERSON Richard I. Ries PsyD, MSEd

1<sup>st</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON Katherine Aumer, PhD

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CHAIRPERSON Kathleen Merriam, LCSW CSAC

#### SECRETARY

Eileen Lau-James, DVM

MEMBERS:
Antonino Beninato
John Betlach
Naomi Crozier, CPS
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Heidi Ilyavi
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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

#### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, established 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 certification program available to adult corrections officers (ACOs). It recognizes 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 families outside.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at <a href="mailto:DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov">DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov</a>.

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

MISSON: 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.



#### SB712 SD1 Train Correction Officers about Trauma

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Cory M. Chun, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 15, 2023: 10:00: Room 430 Videoconference

#### Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB712 SD2

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.<sup>1</sup>

#### 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-informedcare: 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.

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

## Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi

House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans

Hearing Date: 3/15/23
Hearing Time: 10:00 AM
Location: State Capitol

Re: SB 712 SD2 Relating to Corrections

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Chun and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong** support of SB 712 SD2 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.

### Hawai'i Psychological Association



P.O. Box 833 Honolulu, HI 96808 www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521 -8995



Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair March 15, 2023 10:00 A.M. - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE – Rm 430



## The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) strongly supports <u>SB712</u> RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

This bill would create a trauma-informed certification program at the University of Hawaii Windward Community College for adult corrections officers.

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) is an approach in the human service field that assumes an individual is more likely than not to have a history of trauma. Trauma-Informed Care recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role trauma may play in an individual's life- including service staff.

For example, it's estimated that over 53% of incarcerated women have been found to experience trauma in their life and would benefit from ongoing psychological treatment while incarcerated.

Nationally, incarcerated individuals experience greater levels of mental illness than the general population including PTSD, depression, psychosis, and personality disorders.

Increased programming, psychological treatment, and changes from a punitive approach to a therapeutic approach has been found to reduce recidivism, while national estimates of around 70% of those released are at risk of recidivism during the first 5 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Alex Lichton, Ph.D.

Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee

alex Yeston Ph.D.