

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*  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

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Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1131, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

By  
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023; 3:17 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Video Conference

Chairs Wakai and Kim, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kidani, and Members of the  
Committees:

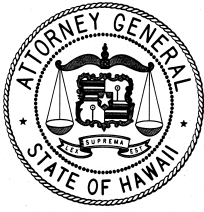
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 1131, House  
Draft (HD)1, which appropriates funding to the University of Hawai'i Thompson School  
of Social Work and Public Health to conduct a comparative study of all programs offered  
to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State for the purpose of  
identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

PSD believes a comparative study of correctional programming to include any  
proposed legislation and funding will assist our efforts to create successful pathways for  
offenders as they re-enter the community. To maintain the integrity and validity of a  
study of programming for incarcerated men and women for the purpose of identifying  
gaps in programming offered to female inmates, PSD strongly supports the inclusion of  
the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) and its Correctional Program  
Checklist Committee (CPC) to review documents, observe program components,

Testimony on House Bill 1131, HD 1  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 22, 2023  
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interactions, and interview staff and participants in order to evaluate effective programming practices in the delivery of quality programs offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State. More importantly, if any area of improvement, range, or disparity is identified, PSD will assist the contractor in addressing areas in need of improvement and any potential sources of funding to facilitate parity in the range and quality of programming that is offered to female and male inmates in the State shall require PSD approval and a competitive Request for Proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1131, HD1.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1131, H.D. 1, RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023      **TIME:** 3:17 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 225

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

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Chairs Wakai and Kim and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require the University of Hawai'i to conduct a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "[t]his section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 22, 2023 at 3:17 p.m.

By  
Interim Dean Tetine Sentell  
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health  
and  
Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1131 HD1 – RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR  
INCARCERATED WOMEN

Chairs Wakai and Kim, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kidani, and Members of the  
Committees:

The University of Hawai'i thanks you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1131 HD1, which requires a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

The vision of the UH Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health is achieving social justice and health equity for the people of Hawai'i and citizens in a changing world. This work is aligned with our vision and our faculty would welcome the opportunity to gather information which would enhance pathways toward gender parity in programs for incarcerated women. The University of Hawai'i believe that Senate Bill 711 SD2 HD1 provides the appropriate mechanism to achieve the intent in this measure, as such, we encourage the committees to defer HB 1131 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**HB-1131-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 3:15:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB1131. Please pass the bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

**HB-1131-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 9:55:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 1131 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair; Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
3:17PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1131 RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR  
INCARCERATED WOMEN

Women's Prison Project (WPP) strongly supports HB1131 which would fund a comparative study of programming currently offered within the state's correctional system, identifying gaps in parity for women, and making recommendations for additional gender responsive programming to meet women's identified needs and reduce risk of recidivism.

Section 367D-1 of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires that "incarcerated women shall be provided a range and quality of programming substantially equivalent to the range and quality of programming offered to male persons who are similarly situated." To date there are no reports that verify such parity.

The statute further states that programming should specifically address "the psychosocial developmental needs of women". Programming is required to be "substantially equivalent to..." but not necessarily identical to programming for men.

HB1131 would appropriate \$120,000 for a study to provide a comprehensive view of programming across Hawaii's corrections system, looking especially at gaps in programming for incarcerated women. The study will highlight the specific rehabilitation needs of women which may or may not currently be met.

**We recommend that the reporting date be moved to June 30, 2024 to allow adequate time for completion of the study.**

Women's Prison Project urges the legislature to pass this bill and move Hawaii's corrections system toward evidence based, gender responsive, more effective rehabilitation programming.

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Linda Rich  
On Behalf of Women's Prison Project





**HB-1131-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 6:40:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2023 3:17:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Simone Kamaunu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB1131.