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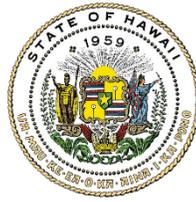
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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

January 31, 2025

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S.B. 1321: RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Office of the Public Defender **supports SB 1321**. This bill extends the term of the Oversight Coordinator for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) from two years to four years and clarifies that the Oversight Coordinator has the authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice.

The statutorily articulated duties of the HCSOC and the Oversight Coordinator are exhaustive, including but not limited to overseeing the State's correctional system, investigating complaints, facilitating a transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model, establishing inmate population limits to avoid overcrowding, and working with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to review and monitor offender reentry programs.

A two-year term hinders the ability of the Oversight Coordinator to execute long-term projects and meaningfully establish relationships with the necessary agencies and stakeholders. Any limitations to access inhibits transparency and is a barrier to fulfilling the Oversight Coordinator's mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
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TOMMY JOHNSON
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Melanie Martin
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Pamela J. Sturz
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Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1321
RELATING TO THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION.

by
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

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

Monday, February 3, 2025; 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) provides comments on Senate Bill (SB) 1321, which proposes to increase the term of appointment for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) Coordinator's position from two years (2) to four (4) years and also amends the language of Section 353L-7 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to allow the coordinator to make inquiries and obtain information where no investigation has been initiated or exists.

The DCR has no concerns with with proposed change. In fact, while we allow the HCSOC and its Coordinator open access to all correctional facilities 24/7, 365 days a year, future directors may not. I firmly believe that if we are to collectively address and resolve the many, many long-standing challenges facing the DCR, it must be made clear in the statute that the HCSOC and DCR are partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 1321.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1321, Relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission
Hearing: Monday, February 3, 2025; 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) **supports** Senate Bill 1321, Relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission, which would extend the term of the Oversight Coordinator for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission, and clarifies that the Oversight Coordinator has the general authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice.

Currently, the Oversight Coordinator shall serve two-year terms, however, the Commission found that a two-year term does not provide sufficient time to fully understand the role, build relationships, or develop and implement meaningful policies or projects. Short terms can hinder the ability to make significant progress or see initiatives through to completion. Additionally, frequent turnover can disrupt continuity, leading to inconsistent strategies and priorities that may undermine the effectiveness of the position and the Commission as a whole.

Although the Commission is thrilled that the current Oversight Coordinator was chosen to serve a second term, the amount of time, effort, and resources that were put into the interview process after two short years were significant. This process, repeated too often, creates inefficiencies. Furthermore, a limited term may reduce long-term accountability, as appointees might focus on short-term achievements or avoid controversy to secure reappointment or future roles, rather than tackling difficult, long-term challenges. Finally, attracting top talent to a position with a short term can be challenging, as it offers limited job security and little opportunity to establish a legacy.

Regarding the proposed amendment on line 14 subsection (c), the bill's language ensures unfettered access to information and correctional facilities, allowing the Oversight Coordinator to fulfill their

mandated duties of not only completing investigations, but also overseeing, monitoring, and reviewing correctional and reentry practices. Unfettered access for oversight entities is essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, and the protection of people and custody and staff. It allows for thorough inspections, assessments, review of practices, deters misconduct, and promotes adherence to regulations. This access helps uncover and address issues like poor conditions or abuse, ensuring humane treatment and fostering public trust in the corrections system.

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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Monday, February 3, 2025

3:15 PM

Room 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1321 - HCSOC COORDINATOR'S TERM & COMMISSION ACCESS TO FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai 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 3,697 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on January 20, 2025. We are always mindful that 937 of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population (49%) 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates the opportunity to **strongly support SB 1321** that extends the term of the oversight coordinator for the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) from 2 years to 4 years and clarifies that the oversight coordinator has the general authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice, beginning July 1, 2025.

As I am sure all legislators know, 2-years is not enough time to solve the myriad of problems and challenges presented by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). Since she was hired in July 2022, the Coordinator has built the Correctional Oversight Commission from the bottom up and she took it upon herself to design and get the HCSOC website up and running. The Commission's website is one of the most comprehensive we have ever seen. It is chock full of information and resources to help policymakers and the community understand what is happening in corrections and ways that Hawai'i can make

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, January 20, 2025

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2025-01-20.pdf>

Citizensunn

our system a model for rehabilitation. We urge everyone to check out the Commission's website at hcsoc.hawaii.gov.

HCSOC has saved Hawai'i from potential lawsuits when they discovered violations of state and federal law while on their facility tours. Everything is documented on their website where they have videos and minutes of monthly meetings, reports from facility tours and other meetings in which they are involved. HCSOC is truly a model for transparency and accountability that all Hawai'i agencies and boards should emulate to emphasize the importance of transparency and community engagement, especially in these challenging times.

SUGGESTION:

One of the most important things about Oversight is to remain apolitical/non-partisan. This is why the Public Utilities Commission has 6-year terms - to prevent being caught up in politics as well as the Ombudsman, who report a disproportionate number of claims they receive are about correctional facilities.

The intent of the creation of HCSOC was to be an independent, non-partisan entity that would provide an outside look with a professional Coordinator who has experience and knowledge working with both federal and state laws.

A six-year term would ensure that HCSOC is focused on their mission - to help DCR with the transition from a punitive system to a rehabilitative model. Policymakers and the community would benefit if the HCSOC Coordinator's term was extended to six-years to maintain their independence and focus on their work transitioning our correctional system to a model for rehabilitation.

On Friday, the companion bill was heard in PSM. The Committee deferred decisionmaking to Wednesday, February 5th.

Mahalo nui for giving Community Alliance on Prisons the chance to share our thoughts and suggestion on the important work of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission. We hope the committee sees and understands the value of having independent oversight of our correctional system and that the committee supports this important bill!

Mahalo nui!



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2025
TIME: 3:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1321 RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Dear Chair Senator Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1321 to extend the term of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) Coordinator from two to four years, and to grant HCSOC the authority to conduct unannounced visits, which will ensure more effective and sustained oversight of our correctional facilities. Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ), incorporated as a non-profit in 1980, has worked with state prisons for over 20 years developing, providing, researching and reporting on pilot projects to determine evidence-based interventions to assist those affected by wrongdoing and injustice, and to increase criminal desistance.

Strengthening Oversight for Lasting Reform

HCSOC was established to provide independent oversight of Hawai'i's correctional system, ensuring that facilities operate with transparency, accountability, and a commitment to humane treatment. Independent oversight is not a short-term endeavor. Issues such as overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, staff misconduct, and facility mismanagement have persisted for decades and cannot be effectively addressed without stable, consistent leadership. Extending the Coordinator's term to four years provides the continuity needed to follow through on critical recommendations and monitor long-term improvements.

Building on Progress and Ensuring Continued Accountability

Since its inception, the HCSOC has played a vital role in improving conditions within correctional facilities through inspections, reports, and policy recommendations. While progress has been made, significant work remains. Ensuring continued oversight is not about maintaining scrutiny for scrutiny's sake—[it is about creating a correctional system that prioritizes rehabilitation, safety, and fiscal responsibility](#). Cutting oversight prematurely could reverse the gains made and allow systemic deficiencies to persist unaddressed.

The Importance of Unannounced Visits

Granting the HCSOC Coordinator authority to conduct unannounced visits is a best practice in correctional oversight because it provides an accurate and real-time assessment of facility conditions: "Announced inspections call into doubt the accuracy of the oversight body's observations" ([Deitch, 2020, p. 271](#)). Scheduled inspections often fail to capture the day-to-day realities of incarcerated individuals and



staff. Unannounced visits ensure that corrective measures are not just performative but integrated into daily operations, leading to meaningful and lasting improvements.

Moreover, national studies indicate that individuals working in hierarchical institutions ([Vue, 2023](#)) like correctional facilities often fear retaliation when reporting misconduct or unsafe conditions ([National Correctional Employees Union, 2016](#)). Independent oversight with the ability to conduct unannounced inspections is one of the most effective ways to ensure accountability, protect staff, the incarcerated, and promote a culture of safety and transparency.

Responsible Stewardship of Resources

Oversight is also essential for ensuring that public funds allocated to Hawai‘i’s correctional system—about \$300 million annually—are used properly. Corrections oversight helps ensure that these vital resources are directed toward evidence-based policies and practices that enhance public safety and reduce recidivism. A well-functioning oversight body can help identify inefficiencies, advocate for strategic investments in rehabilitation and reentry programs, and promote fiscally responsible management of correctional facilities. The *best corrections leadership and management* values safety and efficiency in jails and prisons—it would welcome working collaboratively with oversight bodies through cooperation and open engagement.

Conclusion

SB 1321 is a necessary step toward ensuring that Hawaii’s correctional system is accountable, transparent, and focused on meaningful reform. By extending the term of the HCSOC Coordinator and granting the authority to conduct unannounced visits, this bill strengthens the ability of the Commission to fulfill its mission effectively.

We respectfully urge the legislature to uphold the principles of justice, accountability, and humane treatment within our correctional system and pass this measure. Mahalo for your public service. Please contact me if you needed further information about our support for this bill: lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org and 808 218 3712.

Aloha,

Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH
Director, HFRJ



Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, January 31, 2025 at 10:00am
Place: Conference Room 411 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of S.B. 1321 Relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission**

Dear Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") **supports S.B. 1321** which proposes to extend the term of the Oversight Coordinator for the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission beginning July 1, 2025. Additionally, the bill clarifies that the Oversight Coordinator has the general authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice.

Essential Elements of an Effective Prison Monitoring System

Michele Deitch, an attorney, distinguished senior lecturer at the LBJ School and Texas Law, and Director of the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab, is a recognized national and international expert on prison oversight. Deitch co-chairs the ABA's Subcommittee on Correctional Oversight and has published extensively on the essential elements of an effective prison monitoring system.

- They must be **independent** of the correctional agency and able to do their work without interference or pressure from the agency or any other body;
- Monitors must have unfettered and confidential access to facilities, incarcerated persons, staff, documents, and materials, and they should have the ability to visit at any time of the day without prior notice;
- They must be adequately resourced, with sufficient staffing, office space and funding to carry out their monitoring responsibilities, and the budget must be controlled by the monitoring entity;
- They must have the power and the duty to report their findings and recommendations, in order to fulfill the objective of transparency, and control the release of their reports and

- **They must take a holistic approach to evaluating the treatment of incarcerated persons, relying on observations, interviews, surveys, and other methods of gathering information from prisoners as well as on statistics and performance based outcome measures.**¹

The extension of the Oversight Coordinator's position from two to four years and codifying in statute that the Oversight Coordinator has unfettered access to our jails and prisons - the most closed institutions - is essential to building the oversight infrastructure for meaningful oversight. It is also essential to investigate and bring attention to unconstitutional conditions of confinement, lack of medical and mental health services, suicides, drug smuggling, cruel and unusual punishment, prison rape, violence, and even murders, with the purpose of prevention and remedial action.

For the above reasons, we urge the Committee to support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

Carrie Ann Shirota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai'i

cshirota@acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i since 1965.

¹ Michele Deitch, *Independent Correctional Oversight Mechanisms Across the United States: A 50-State Inventory*, 30 Pace L. Rev. 1754 (2010); DOI: <https://doi.org/10.58948/2331-3528.1764> See also, See Effective Prison Oversight, Michele Deitch, Prepared for the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, 4th Hearing, Los Angeles, February 8, 2006.

SB-1321

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:59:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support this bill to extend the term of Coordinator of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission from 2 years to 4 years.

The Commission operated without any salaried staff, at first, and with its first Coordinator in place, as the Legislature conceived it, the Commission is proving to be a very welcome actor in the community of families concerned for the welfare of incarcerated individuals. Comparing the role she has been playing in response to families with concern for loved ones and to those with specific grievance, her presence is like having a special ombudsman for the corrections system. (The State's Public Utilities Commissioners are protected from political interference with 6-year terms. Our Coordinator experienced political attack last session, in 2024, and fortunately survived.)

Among the community of activists working to persuade the Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation it can turn away from a para-military regime, to one which centers human dignity, the Coordinator has also proven her energy and commitment many times over. The Coordinator works to cooperate, collaborate with the Department, which is as it should be.

Mahalo for your consideration to protect the HCSOC's Coordinator by approving this bill.

SB-1321

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:13:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Tomita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting written testimony in full support of SB1321, relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.

Regarding the first part: The current Oversight Coordinator was officially hired in mid-2022, after receiving the much-needed and overdue funding. Even though the commission was formed in late 2019/early 2020, this 'green light' signaled the legislature's commitment to move forward and enable the commission to fully carry out their mandated duties. As the first Oversight Coordinator, Ms Christin Johnson immediately made many significant achievements, too many to list here. But I would be remiss if I didn't at least mention some of them:

- Building the Commission's website, from scratch, and turning in to an easy-to-navigate website, with all of their facility visits, findings/recommendations/reports, and links to significant nation-wide corrections documents, along with other information. This full transparency is vital for public trust!
- Also created Facebook, You Tube, Instagram and LinkedIN accounts from scratch, with easy to follow links to those programs. The community can now watch past meetings at their leisure.
- Has built an amazing rapport with the local community, many of whom are extremely concerned with Hawaii's jails and prisons, and also the Arizona facility. Not only has the Commission gained the public's support and gratitude, but I'm sure that with these various facility tours they do, they have also gained the trust from the staff and inmates, and that the Commission is looking out for their interests
- Just published an incredible 'eye-opening' survey, which was taken from each jail and prison. This took almost a year to compile, and it was recently suggested by lawmakers to have these surveys done again in 2025, because of its in-depth and informative findings.

After Ms Johnson's original 2-year term was concluding, I believe she was unanimously selected for another 2-year term this past summer. By changing & increasing the term to four years, it will allow better continuity in this critical position. It doesn't make sense to keep going through the hiring process every two years -- it has taken the last two years now to get the Oversight Commission to where they are now. Changing personnel at that point would disrupt flow significantly as the Commission is composed of five highly-esteemed, hand-picked individuals who serve at their leisure. They are not paid, and in most cases are semi or fully retired. Rotating a new Coordinator every two years would cause a complete 'break in' period

which could easily take a full year for that person to become fully familiar with their duties. There are many complex and time-consuming tasks that Ms Johnson has mastered, and safe to say, it has probably taken those first two years to get comfortable in this unique and complex job. Having four years is also the normal length of terms in similar related positions, i.e., I believe the Director of Corrections & Rehabilitation, and also the members of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, all normally serve 4-year terms.

For the second part of SB1321: I also support having the Coordinator do unannounced site visits, if there is an important and legal reason to do so. Just as an example, if the Coordinator is receiving information on unjustified inmate abuses going on at a facility, you would not want to give them notice that you would like to visit 'sometime in March' to investigate it.

In summary, I hope common senses prevails and both parts of this bill are passed.

v/r
J. Tomita

February 3, 2025

To: Senator Brandon Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: SB 1321 Relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1321 Relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) which would extend the term of the oversight coordinator for the Commission from 2 years to 4 years and clarifies that the oversight coordinator has the general authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice, beginning July 1, 2025.

I believe the oversight coordinator's position is essential to maintain an effective oversight infrastructure and the position deserves a term of at least four years. The position will bring attention to conditions in our correctional institutions that need attention and improvement and provide the transparency necessary for institutions that are charged with caring for incarcerated individuals.

Independent oversight provides taxpayers the assurance that individuals under the control of the corrections system are being held appropriately and are receiving needed medical and mental health services; and have access to rehabilitative programming.

HCSOC's report: "Correctional Staff Survey, Findings, and Recommendations" which was presented to the legislature, shows the need for reform and provides recommendations to provide a safer and supportive environment for both staff and incarcerated individuals. As a taxpayer, I am thankful for the diligence and dedication of the staff to undertake such a time intensive project: to conduct the survey, compile key findings and make informed recommendations.

I respectfully ask the committee to pass this measure.

SB-1321

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:28:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane DiMaria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allow the HCSOC to proceed with it's work. Human Beings continue to suffer in silence, and in fear, caused by DCR appointees and their corporate bosses on the mainland, who do not follow the contract rules correctly. When those people who are incarcerated, and their families, write, and call, for help in the future, there must be Staff who can respond, investigate, and resolve issues on their behalf. If timely, professional help is not possible, then, what is the point? With all due respect, do pass SB1321. It is past time to get serious with the DCR. They must be made to attend all of the HCSOC meetings, you know, as if it matters, because it really does matter. Thank you all. Diane DiMaria, from Santa Cruz County, California.

SB-1321

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:59:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee,

I am a concerned citizen writing in strong support of SB1321.

I can understand why some legislators and leadership of our correctional system would be reluctant to have the problems of the system exposed to the public. Perhaps this is why the former governor and legislators slow walked the appointment of the Oversight Commission coordinator. After the appointment, it was like a breath of fresh air to have an oversight coordinator so committed to transparency and improving the lives of the incarcerated as well as correctional facility staff.

A comment was made in the House hearing to the effect that the coordinator had pointed out the issues and somehow this was used as a resason that not lengthen the term of the coordinator position. I believe this reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of coordinator. It's not a one-and-done project, but an ongoing effort to transform our correctional system into a more humane, rehabilitative, and cost-effective system. It doesn't help to just pay lip service to the idea.

The coordinator must have an extended period of time to see initiatives through to beneficial conclusions. To have a short two-year term would be inefficient and require each new coordinator a while to get up to speed. It would leave efforts fragmented and unfinished.

Please extend the length of the Oversight Commission Coordinator to four years or longer for the benefit of the people involved in our correctional system.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

SB-1321

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:42:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2025 3:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senator Brandon Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 2, 2025

RE: Measure Title: RELATING TO THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION.

Report Title: Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission; Oversight Coordinator

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I am in support of Senate Bill 1321. I believe the oversight coordinator's term should be consistent with the governor who made the appointment. Furthermore, a four-year term will advance the continuity of oversight and accountability over the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, as well as allot the oversight coordinator and the HCSOC with ample time to carry out, and/or modify, the various objectives of their 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. Thank you for introducing this bill and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-1321

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:54:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2025 3:15:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rev Kyle Lovett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs,

My name is Rev. Kyle Lovett, a clergy member of the United Church of Christ.

I **strongly support** this bill extending the term of the oversight coordinator for the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission to 4 years and adding the clarification that the oversight coordinator has the general authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice.

The current oversight coordinator has brought stability, transparency, and forward motion to this aspect of the Hawai'i carceral system. The community is well served by this improvement, and the stability of a 4-year term will greatly improve the oversight coordinator's ability to stay focused on the work at hand.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

~Kyle

Rev. Kyle Lovett

HI Senate District 13