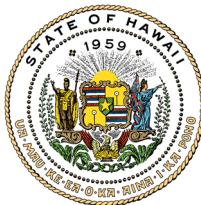


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2030 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

by

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 28, 2026; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference 016 and Videoconference

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2030, which seeks to appropriate an unspecified amount of funding for all adult correctional officers (ACOs) to wear body worn cameras ("BWCs") while on duty in all state correctional facilities.

It should be noted, the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawai'i and various counties.

Requiring ACOs to wear BWCs affects the conditions of employment, because a violation of any BWC policy established by the DCR could result in disciplinary action or dismissal. DCR would be required to consult and/or negotiate with UPW on this matter, including implementation of any policies relating to BWCs by ACOs.

Therefore, the DCR respectfully requests this measure be amended to allow DCR the time needed to conduct research into the cost of BWCs, the cost of data storage, replacement ACO shirts, and consultations with UPW on this matter. DCR will be prepared to provide a report to the Legislature no later than 20 working days prior to the 2027 Legislative Session addressing these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 2030.

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 Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2030, Relating to Corrections
Hearing: Wednesday, January 28, 2026; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) **supports** Senate Bill 2030, Relating to Corrections, which appropriates funds to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for purchasing body cameras for adult correctional officers to wear while on duty at state correctional facilities.

While body-worn cameras (BWC) are most associated with policing, corrections-specific research increasingly shows similar and, in some cases, stronger benefits in jail and prison environments. A National Institute of Justice (NIJ)-supported study¹ found that deployment of BWCs in a jail was associated with statistically significant reductions in response-to-resistance incidents and injuries of incarcerated individuals. The findings suggest that body-worn cameras can help de-escalate encounters, improve officer decision-making, and reduce physical confrontations in correctional facilities.

Importantly, body-worn cameras protect correctional officers as much as they protect incarcerated individuals. Video evidence can quickly resolve complaints, discourage false allegations, and provide officers with confidence that their professionalism will be documented. At the same time, cameras strengthen accountability by ensuring that when misconduct does occur, it is addressed promptly and fairly. Protection and accountability are critical to maintaining morale among staff while also reinforcing public trust in the correctional system.

¹ [Deploying Body-Worn Cameras in a Jail Setting: Impacts and Lessons Learned](#) American Jails Magazine / Office of Justice Programs, Apr. 1 2024), first known randomized controlled trial of body-worn cameras in a correctional jail setting showing statistically significant reductions in response-to-resistance incidents and resident injuries.

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission

Senate Bill 2030, Relating to Corrections

Page 2 of 2

Additionally, clear video evidence can reduce litigation costs and settlement expenses, shorten and streamline internal and external investigations, and improve training by using real footage to reinforce best practices. Over time, these efficiencies could offset the initial investment while improving outcomes across the system.

Body-worn cameras in correctional facilities improve safety, transparency, and accountability. Funding this initiative will help modernize our correctional system, protect staff, safeguard incarcerated individuals, and reinforce public confidence in state institutions.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-849-3580 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 [/ kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2026

Room 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

3:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2030 – BODY CAMERAS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee 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 almost three decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,668 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the “care and custody” of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as of January 19, 2026 . We are always mindful that 799 of Hawai`i’s imprisoned male population 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.

SB 2030 appropriates funds to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for purchasing body cameras for adult correctional officers to wear while on duty at state correctional facilities.

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, January 19, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-01-19_.pdf](https://www.hawaii.gov/dcr/pop-reports-weekly-2026-01-19_.pdf)

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports transparency and accountability and the use of body cameras in correctional facilities for Adult Correctional Officers and those who interact with our incarcerated neighbors.

The Executive Summary of a report entitled, **Body-Worn Cameras in State Correctional Agencies**² on August 26, 2019 states:

“The purpose of this report is to inform and advise state correctional agencies about the known use of body worn cameras (BWCs) and how they can be utilized to address some of the major problems that are faced within correctional settings. Discussions of what is known about the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), use of force, and staff burnout are offered, along with consideration of policing research on the use of BWCs, its advantages and disadvantages, and how state correctional agencies can benefit. Policy recommendations are offered that include a phased roll out of BWCs in pilot facilities, with monitoring and evaluation plans, in conjunction with enhanced training.”

The following states have laws requiring the use of body cameras in correctional facilities:

- **Colorado:** Mandates the use of body cameras by correctional staff.
- **Connecticut:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.
- **Delaware:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.
- **Illinois:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.
- **Maryland:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.
- **New Jersey:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.
- **New Mexico:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.
- **South Carolina:** Requires body cameras by correctional staff.

These states have implemented body cameras to enhance transparency and accountability within correctional facilities, ensuring that incidents involving staff and incarcerated individuals are documented in real-

² **Body-Worn Cameras in State Correctional Agencies**

Kristi L. Greenberg, University of New Haven

August 26, 2019

[Cameras in Prison | Correctional Officer Body Camera](#)

time. The use of body cameras is a critical component of modern policing and correctional operations, providing a verifiable record that protects both staff and incarcerated individuals from false accusations and abuse.

Here is a sampling of other jurisdictions:

- The **L.A. County** Sheriff's Department has purchased 4,641 BWCs for deputies to wear in the facilities, which have seen a spike in inmate deaths in 2025 ³

"The use of body worn cameras will help to improve officer safety, evidence quality, transparency, and accountability," the department said in a statement Thursday, adding that body-worn and CCTV cameras "will be impactful for investigations, thus enhancing transparency and accountability."

- 1,300 body cameras deployed in **Arizona** prisons ⁴

From a blog published by Bryce Peterson⁵, a senior research scientist in CNA's Center for Justice Research and Innovation and an adjunct professor of criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice focuses on correctional technologies and practices that improve the safety and security of staff and incarcerated people:

"...For over a decade, I've studied critical correctional incidents, body-worn cameras, and surveillance systems. In the first ever evaluation of body-worn cameras in a correctional setting, my colleagues and I found that cameras deployed in the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center, a jail in Northern Virginia, significantly and meaningfully reduced deputies' use of force and injuries to the incarcerated population. We also found that body-worn cameras complemented the jail's existing surveillance system, offering valuable insight about a use-of-force incident and enhancing the goals of transparency and accountability. We are now conducting a similar evaluation of body-worn cameras in five Minnesota prisons.

³ Deputies in L.A. County jails to be equipped with body-worn cameras

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department has purchased 4,641 BWCs for deputies to wear in the facilities, which have seen a spike in inmate deaths in 2025

October 24, 2025 10:44 AM

[L.A. County jails add 4,600 body cameras amid record inmate deaths](#)

⁴ <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=1%2c300+body+cameras+deployed+in+Arizona+prisons>

⁵ **Death of Robert Brooks Emphasizes the Need for Body-Worn Cameras in Prisons**

Bryce Peterson | Friday, February 7, 2025

[The Need for Body-Worn Cameras in Prisons | CNA](#)

Three Steps to Make Cameras in Prisons More Effective

While I believe body-worn cameras hold potential for improving the corrections system, they are most valuable when used properly. To that end, I offer three suggestions for correctional officials looking to maximize the effectiveness of these devices.

First, because the cost of storage and privacy considerations make it prohibitive for all personnel to be equipped with cameras that constantly record, **agencies must have clear policies in place around who is provided cameras and when they are to be activated.** Cameras could also be configured to automatically activate under a variety of circumstances, like when officers enter certain parts of the facility, unholster a weapon, or get into an altercation.

Second, **agencies must have strong ways of tracking and enforcing policy compliance.** In New York, some of the officers were wearing cameras during the alleged assault of Brooks but did not activate them. Because the cameras passively recorded part of the incident while in standby mode, we have some footage, but it was cropped and without audio. We're also missing video from the other personnel involved. Such an oversight limits the potential value of body-worn cameras in use-of-force investigations.

Finally, **true transparency and accountability requires officials to release footage when an incident occurs**, outline whether staff followed policy, and provide information proactively and swiftly on follow-up decisions. This includes both holding staff accountable for misbehavior and protecting them against false allegations.

A staff report⁶ conducted by the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission revealed that Adult Correctional Officers cited the need for more training. This has been a deficiency in Hawai‘i’s Correctional System where too many preventable deaths have been reported – 16 in 2025 alone. With a significant number of incarcerated people contending with mental health issues, more must be done to bring in nationally recognized professionals to train front-line staff. And on-going trainings are crucial to ensure that DCR is actually protecting our neighbors who are in their care and custody.

⁶ <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/HCSOC-Climate-Survey-Results-Uniform-ALL.pdf>

Community Alliance on Prisons hopes that the committee will pass this important bill - SB 2030 - and that the legislature will encourage the Hawai`i Correctional System Oversight Commission to oversee the implementation and a mandate for DCR to enact evidence-based policies in their P&Ps to reduce the number of preventable deaths and suicides in our correctional facilities.

Mahalo for this opportunity for Community Alliance on prisons to share our research on this pressing issue.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senate Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2030 – RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW provides comments on SB2030, which appropriates funds to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for purchasing body cameras for adult correctional officers to wear while on duty at state correctional facilities.

UPW would like to note that requiring adult corrections officers to wear body-worn cameras, as is proposed by this measure, affects the conditions of employment. Because a violation of any body-worn camera policy established by the Department could result in disciplinary action or dismissal, UPW asserts that the Department must consult with UPW, and any body-worn camera policy that is developed must be mutually agreed upon pursuant to 89-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the collective bargaining agreement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2030

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:43:49 PM
Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and committee members. I am Austin Martin, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, testifying in support of SB 2030.

This bill appropriates an unspecified sum from general revenues for FY 2026-2027 to purchase body cameras for all adult correctional officers on duty in state facilities, explicitly to deter sexual assaults/contraband, protect inmates from misconduct, and build defenses against lawsuits through objective evidence.

Requiring recording in custodial settings enhances transparency and accountability with minimal intrusion on public interactions. We recommend this body support and pass SB 2030, but amend it to specify public access protocols for footage and prohibit use for unrelated surveillance.

Mahalo for supporting this wise proposal to keep corrections accountable.

Austin Martin

Libertarian Party

SB-2030

Submitted on: 1/26/2026 9:04:27 PM
Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: January 26, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2030

Measure Title: RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

Report Title: DCR; Adult Correctional Officers; Body Cameras; Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 2030 as I believe it will aid in promoting transparency and accountability. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-2030

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 2:31:27 PM
Testimony for PSM on 1/28/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgette Yaindl	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The intent of SB2030 seems clear: deter sexual assaults and contraband; build defense against future lawsuits; protect inmates from rogue officers, it is not clear how body worn cameras (BWC) is a means to those ends. The individual wearing the BWC controls the on off switch. Thank you for considering my comment. Georgette A. Yaindl, Kailua-Kona