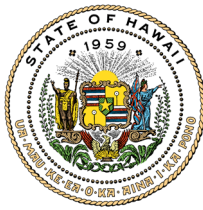


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
AND REHABILITATION**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima  
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**Sanna Muñoz**  
Deputy Director  
Rehabilitation Services  
and  
Programs

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 147 / SENATE  
RESOLUTION 139  
REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL  
FUNDING TO INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR ADULT CORRECTIONS OFFICERS  
EMPLOYED BY THE STATE OF HAWAII'S DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND  
REHABILITATION.

by  
Tommy Johnson, Director  
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 147 / Senate Resolution (SR) 139, which seeks federal supplemental funding to increase compensation for Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs). DCR appreciates the Legislature's continued recognition of the critical staffing challenges within Hawai'i's unified correctional system. The resolution highlights persistent vacancy rates—approximately twenty four percent statewide—and the resulting strain on staff, facility safety, and workforce stability.

As noted in the resolution, ACOs perform high risk duties under increasingly difficult conditions, including mandatory overtime, high attrition rates, and rising workloads. These challenges compromise both staff safety and the good governance and operations of the facilities.

SCR 147 / SR 139 Requesting the Federal Government to Provide Supplemental Funding to Increase Compensation for Adult Correctional Officers Employed by the State of Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

April 15, 2026

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DCR agrees that competitive compensation is essential to improving recruitment and retention in this critical public safety profession. Federal partnership and investment would provide meaningful support and would help reduce the fiscal burden on Hawai'i taxpayers.

While federal supplemental funding could provide important short term relief, DCR remains concerned about the stability of federal appropriations over time. Federal funding priorities may shift, leaving the State responsible for maintaining compensation levels without a guaranteed ongoing revenue stream from the federal government specifically for this purpose.

The department fully supports the Legislature's efforts to seek federal partnership to address the State's correctional staffing crisis. The intent of SCR 147 / SR 139 aligns with DCR's mission to maintain safe, secure, and humane correctional environments for staff, incarcerated individuals, and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SCR 147 / SR 139.



Committee: Public Safety  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 13, 2026, at 10:30am  
Place: Conference Room 411 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SCR147**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SCR147** requesting the federal government to provide funding to increase compensation for adult corrections officers employed by the State of Hawai'i's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR).

Late last year, A number of our staff were fortunate to be able tour the O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). During our visit, we spoke with various staff and became acutely aware that among the issues impacting the facility is an ongoing staffing shortage and ability to hire qualified adult correctional officers (ACOs).

The persistent, and sometimes extreme, staffing shortage has resulted in prisoners being unable to participate in programming or spend time outdoors. This is an unacceptable consequence of DCR's ability to fill vacant positions. Not just on O'ahu.

A request of the federal government to assist with funding for ACO compensation considering the State's budget complications is a sensible approach to the issue of jail and prison facility staffing.

For all these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai'i supports SCR147 and we encourage the committee to advance the measure.

Sincerely,

*Josh Frost*

Josh Frost  
Policy Advocate  
ACLU of Hawai'i  
[jfrost@acluhawaii.org](mailto:jfrost@acluhawaii.org)

*With more than 4,000 Hawai'i-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. 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 our communities in Hawai'i for over 60 years.*

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