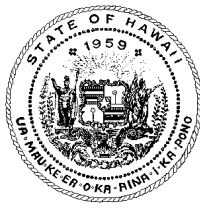


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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
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TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
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Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 89 / SENATE
RESOLUTION 84, SENATE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE MODELS FOR REHABILITATION
AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ON O'AHU.

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 Committees:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **supports the intent** of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 89 / Senate Resolution (SR) 84, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which requests the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation and restorative justice on O'ahu, provides a list of organizations that should be part of the advisory committee, and requests that the advisory committee develop recommendations that incorporate the findings of the Breaking Cycles Study in the design and planning of the new O'ahu Community Correctional Center. SCR 89 / SR 84, SD 1 also provides a list of agencies the advisory committee is requested to consult with and requests that the advisory committee submit a report of its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027.

SCR 89 / SR 84, SD 1 Requesting the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission to Establish an Advisory Committee to Develop Recommendations on the Implementation of Alternative Models for Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice on O'ahu.

April 15, 2026

Page 2

DCR provides comments on this matter and information that the Legislature may not be aware of. Attached, please find the two-page design principles taken from the Breaking Cycles Study that are included in the planning and design of the new OCCC. This was previously provided by the HCSOC. DCR is committed to building a new OCCC that is based on rehabilitation and restorative justice, including cultural sensitivity and evidenced-based programming. We welcome the opportunity to provide a presentation to the Legislature and any other interested party regarding the work thus far on the planning and design of the new OCCC.

It should be noted that, in 2017, the estimated cost to build a new OCCC was approximately \$537 million, but at that time, funding was not provided. At present, the estimated cost to build a new OCCC has risen to over \$900 million. Further delays with this project will cost the state and taxpayers \$4-\$6 million each month in construction escalation costs. This information is provided so the Legislature is aware of this very serious issue of concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **supporting the intent** of SCR 89 / SR 84, SD 1.

Attachment.

Design Principles

Ensure safety, both physical and emotional.

Adopt a **trauma-informed, health-centered** approach.

Nurture relationships to self, family, community, land and the spiritual world.

Connect to 'aina, provide spaces to interact with the land.

Take a **strengthes-based approach** that focuses on assets.

Create opportunities for **improvement and empowerment**.

Honor diverse **cultures and identities**.

Support learning through educational programs and spaces.

Demonstrate respect for each individual, through comfortable and dignified environments.

Design Considerations

Program adjacency:

- Program-centered: a facility where program spaces, such as education or health spaces are at the center.
- Separate pre-trial sentenced populations: ensure that people are separated according to their need and risk. Misdemeanants should not be next to murderers. Separate gang members.
- Design for decommissioning: organize programs to allow for maximum flexibility, to be partially built, or to be partially decommissioned and adaptively reused.

Site design:

- Orient to central green space to provide views and access to nature.
- Progression/graduated housing to incentivize behavior.
- Enclosed courtyards for secured open space within each module.
- Access to smaller landscape areas that offer refuge or retreat.

Staff spaces:

- Establish a dedicated staff lounge to promote relaxation.
- Designate a dining room for staff meals and social interactions.
- Create a wellness courtyard for relaxation and privacy.
- Develop a walking path to encourage physical activity.
- Set up training rooms/classrooms for staff development and skill-building sessions.
- Equip a staff gym to support fitness and overall well-being.

Housing module:

- Provide treatment rooms to support rehabilitative services for mental health, substance abuse, etc.
- Incorporate glazing for natural sunlight to enter the space.
- Develop accessible green spaces to foster a connection with nature.
- Provide an outdoor recreation yard to promote physical activity.
- Integrate wall murals to create a visually uplifting and calming environment.
- Establish multi-purpose rooms for educational programs.
- Implement dynamic security with ACO stations to balance safety and positive interaction.
- Introduce varied furniture configurations to support different needs and activities.
- Design with views to the outside to reduce feelings of confinement.

Sleeping unit:

- Include windows with views of nature or the surrounding environment.
- Incorporate functional furniture to meet daily needs effectively.
- Provide personal storage to secure belongings.

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 NO
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Kim Coco Iwamtoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

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

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution 89, Senate Draft 1, Requesting the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission to Establish an Advisory Committee to Develop Recommendations on the Implementation of Alternative Models for Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice on O'ahu.

Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2026; 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 411

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

The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) submits testimony in **support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 89, Senate Draft 1, requesting the HCSOC establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation on O'ahu.

This resolution is directly aligned with the Commission's statutory mandate and ongoing work to advance a correctional system rooted in rehabilitation, therapeutic practices, and cultural grounding. As recognized in the resolution, the *Breaking Cycles: Alternative Models for Rehabilitative and Restorative Justice on O'ahu* study provides a comprehensive, community-informed framework for transforming Hawai'i's correctional system into one that is holistic, health-centered, and trauma-informed.

The Commission has consistently emphasized that correctional reform in Hawai'i must move beyond infrastructure and toward system-wide transformation. In its January 3, 2025, letter to the Governor regarding the importance of *Breaking Cycles*, the Commission underscored that proceeding with new jail construction without a comprehensive, rehabilitative framework risks perpetuating the very cycles of incarceration the State seeks to address. The Commission urged that planning efforts be grounded in a clear, system-wide strategy centered on rehabilitation, diversion, and reentry.

S.C.R. No. 89, S.D. 1, represents a necessary and timely step toward ensuring that the State's investments in correctional infrastructure and policy are guided by a cohesive, evidence-based, and culturally grounded vision. By establishing an advisory committee, the Legislature is enabling the collaborative, cross-sector approach required to move from concept to implementation. The Commission appreciates the Legislature's confidence in having the Commission lead this effort. For these reasons, the Commission fully supports this resolution.

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.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 89 SD1
REQUESTING THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION TO
ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE MODELS FOR REHABILITATION AND
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ON O‘AHU

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Palekana Lehulehu
(House Committee on Public Safety)
Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 15, 2026

10:30 AM

Lumi 411

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SCR89 SD1** which request the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission to establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation and restorative justice on O‘ahu. These measures appropriately build on the *Breaking Cycles* report¹ and seek to ensure planning for the new O‘ahu Community Correctional Center is informed by rehabilitation, restoration, health, culture, and community accountability rather than a purely carceral model. OHA appreciates recent amendments which request the advisory committee include two members with lived experience as incarcerated individuals, comprising one male member and one female member, and two adult corrections officers who participated in the in the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission's staff survey.

These resolutions reflect principles long advanced by Native Hawaiian communities, justice reform advocates, and impacted families. Meaningful public safety is strengthened not by confinement alone, but by healing, connection, accountability, and successful reintegration. The *Breaking Cycles* report drew from a broad body of prior Hawai‘i reform work, including the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force,² and was informed by extensive engagement with people with lived experience, family members of incarcerated individuals, and community stakeholders. Its design framework emphasizes a holistic, health-centered, trauma-informed approach rooted in relationships to self, ‘ohana, community, and ‘āina.

¹ Breaking Cycles Symposium, *Breaking Cycles Symposium*, <https://www.breaking-cycles-symposium.org/>

² Office of Hawaiian Affairs, *Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report* (2012), https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf

These measures are also significant from a Native Hawaiian well-being perspective. Native Hawaiian organizations have long demonstrated the value of ‘āina-based and culturally grounded approaches to rehabilitation and healing. The resolutions expressly recognize both the cultural richness of the Hālawā ahupua‘a and the strong community support for a rehabilitative model rooted in Native Hawaiian culture. If the State continues forward with a new facility on O‘ahu, planning should be guided by Native Hawaiian ‘ike, trauma-informed design, and a genuine commitment to alternatives that reduce recidivism and strengthen restoration rather than reproduce the harms of conventional jail design.

Hawai‘i’s own recent experience also points in this direction. The Mohala Wahine Women’s Court pilot on O‘ahu has already produced promising early results.³ By August 2024, twenty-three women had entered the program and seventy percent had secured independent living or residential treatment housing, and the Judiciary later reported two graduating classes whose participants completed treatment, achieved stable housing, and maintained employment, educational participation, and sobriety. Because of that early success, the Legislature made the program permanent on O‘ahu and expanded the model to Hawai‘i Island, even as longer-term outcome data continue to develop.⁴

OHA also supports the advisory committee structure. Including OHA, Papa Ola Lōkahi, ALU LIKE, the O‘ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Lili‘uokalani Trust, Native Hawaiian health expertise, community representation, and consultation with Native Hawaiian practitioners in ho‘oponopono, lā‘au lapa‘au, lo‘i kalo and loko i‘a stewardship, ‘āina-based healing, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and Indigenous planning and design will help ensure the recommendations are grounded in both lived experience and cultural knowledge.

Finally, the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission’s March 2025 reentry report identified ongoing gaps in compliance with rehabilitation and reentry requirements, underscoring that Hawai‘i’s correctional challenges remain systemic rather than merely architectural.⁵ These resolutions are timely because they do not assume a new facility alone will solve those failures, but instead ask the more important question OHA has raised through its longstanding criminal justice advocacy: what rehabilitative and

³ Hawai‘i State Judiciary, *A Report on the Women's Court Pilot Program* (November 2024), <https://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/RPT-Womens-Court-Pilot-Program-FINAL.pdf>

⁴ Act 228, Session Laws 2025, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/slh/Years/SLH2025/SLH2025_Act228.pdf

⁵ Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission, *Hoe Amāu Reentry Services Report* (Mar. 7, 2025), <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025.3.7-Hoe-Amāu-Reentry-Report-Final.pdf>

restorative model will actually reduce harm to pa‘ahao, strengthen reentry, and better serve Native Hawaiians, their ‘ohana, and Hawai‘i as a whole.⁶

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges this committee to **PASS SCR89 SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

⁶ Office of Hawaiian Affairs, *Criminal Justice*,
<https://www.oha.org/governance/criminal-justice/>



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 SCR89 SD1**

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

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SCR89 SD1** requesting the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation and restorative justice on O'ahu.

This measure closely aligns with HCSOC's mandate to transform our correctional system into one that is firmly rooted in and prioritizes rehabilitation and cultural grounding.

It is important as DCR proceeds with planning for and construction of a new facility to replace the O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) that DCR ensure the plan has recommendations from the Breaking Cycles study as a foundation, rather than something to be integrated.

We also share concerns noted by the Office of the Public Defender regarding the risk of repeating current shortcomings as DCR proceeds with the new O'ahu jail. SCR89 SD1 will help ensure the department moves forward with a focus on rehabilitation and reentry requirements rooted in reducing recidivism and decarceration.

Despite cost concerns from DCR, we believe it is more important that we do it right, rather than do it quickly. Additionally, the nearly \$1 billion price tag could be reduced substantially if the size of the proposed facility is scaled down and a priority is give to proven decarceration measures that are statistically shown not to decrease community safety.

For all these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai'i supports SCR89 SD1 and we encourage the committee to advance the measure.

Sincerely,

Josh Frost

Josh Frost

Policy Advocate

ACLU of Hawai'i

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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APRIL 15, 2026

SCR 89 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: PBS

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Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
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Mireille Ellsworth,
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Justin Salisbury,
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Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SCR 89 SD1, requesting the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission to establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation and restorative justice on O'ahu.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending gender violence and sexual exploitation, and connecting human rights with climate justice. We particularly support this measure because any discussion of incarceration in Hawai'i must confront a central reality: incarceration in Hawai'i disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiians.

Native Hawaiians make up roughly 21–22% of Hawai'i's population, but approximately 37–40% of the incarcerated population, a disparity that has persisted for decades. This means Native Hawaiians are incarcerated at nearly twice their share of the population, making them one of the most disproportionately incarcerated indigenous populations in the United States.

This disparity exists at every stage of the criminal legal system, from arrest to sentencing to incarceration and parole revocation. Research has shown that Native Hawaiians are more likely to be sentenced to prison, receive longer sentences, and face longer probation terms than other groups, even when controlling for other factors. Native Hawaiians are also disproportionately represented among individuals incarcerated in out-of-state facilities, which separates them from family, culture, and community support systems that are critical for rehabilitation and successful reentry.

The overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal legal system is deeply connected to historical and structural factors including colonization, loss of land, poverty, housing instability, educational disparities, and unequal access to healthcare and mental health services. Studies on Hawai'i's criminal justice system consistently emphasize that Hawaiians are overrepresented due to systemic inequities, rather than higher individual rates of criminal behavior.

Incarceration also has intergenerational impacts. When parents are incarcerated, families experience economic instability, children experience trauma and educational disruption, and communities lose cultural and social leadership. These impacts compound existing inequities and contribute to cycles of incarceration and poverty.

If Hawai‘i is serious about improving public safety, reducing recidivism, and strengthening communities, we must address the root causes of incarceration and invest in alternatives such as rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, housing support, education, and culturally grounded reentry programs.

This resolution is important because it recognizes that incarceration policy must be examined holistically, including its social, economic, cultural, and racial impacts. Addressing these disparities is not only a criminal justice issue. It is a fundamentally an issue of equity and justice in Hawai‘i.

With aloha,

Kris Caffield

President, Imua Alliance



TO: Committee on Public Safety
RE: SCR 89, SD 1
HEARING: April 15, 2026
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
ROOM: 411
POSITION: **Strongly support**

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

My name is Bob Merce. I am a retired lawyer and chair of the Correctional Reform Working Group (CRWG). In 2022 the CRWG published “Getting it Right: Recommendations and Action Plan for a Better Jail”¹ which was endorsed by the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) and others, including the Native Hawaiian Legal Corp. and the United Public Workers Union, AFSCME Local 646 which represents Hawaii’s correctional officers. We also shared our ideas with the University of Hawaii Community Design Center (UHCDC) and supported their ground breaking work in the development of “Breaking Cycles: Alternative Models for Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice on O’ahu” (Breaking Cycles).

The CRWG strongly supports SCR 89, SD 1 which requests the HCSOC to establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation on O’ahu based on the UHCDC’s Breaking Cycles study. The study was prompted by the planning of a new jail to replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). It aligns with the HCSOC’s mandate to facilitate the transition of Hawaii’s correctional system to a therapeutic and rehabilitative model, and Act 278 (SLH 2022) which changed the name of the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR).

The CRWG supports SCR 89, SD 1 for the following reasons:

1. The UHCDC findings are based on an unprecedented outreach effort that included more than 120 “talk story” sessions with community leaders and stakeholder organizations, multiple interviews, 18 site visits/listening workshops, 8 co-design workshops, 5 community practice meetings, and 3 knowledge sharing symposiums, one of which took place over a two-day period and was attended by members of more than 80 organizations.² **The Breaking Cycles study is the only document that can fairly be said to represent the views, vision, values,**

aspirations, and desires of the community with respect to the new jail. Key elements of the study should serve as foundational concepts for planning the new jail.

2. Including community stakeholders in the jail planning process is a best practice. It is “absolutely essential” to creating a successful facility, and “the hallmark” of good jail planning.³

3. The Breaking Cycles study found that the community wants the planning for the new jail to include system reform that would **increase diversion and community-based care, and reduce incarceration.**⁴ Incorporating those findings into the jail planning and design process would reduce the cost of the new jail, reduce recidivism, and make our communities safer.

4. The Breaking Cycles study found that the community wants the new jail to have a public health perspective, community-partnered reentry, a health-centered and trauma-informed approach to corrections, and a Native Hawaiian well-being cultural framework⁵. Incorporating those concepts/practices into the planning and design will produce better outcomes and safer communities.

5. The State has a long-standing legal mandate to transition to a rehabilitative correctional model⁶ which, by and large, it has not done.⁷ Incorporating the findings of the Breaking Cycles study would put the State on the rehabilitative pathway required by law.

6. On January 20, 2023, Governor Josh Green said that he did not think a billion-dollar jail was “the right move in a state and era where we need to build housing,” and he had tasked his public safety directors and health professionals to give him a “better proposal for the new jail.”⁸ Though not intended, the Breaking Cycles study is, in effect, the better proposal Governor asked for, and it should be incorporated into the planning and design of the new jail.

7. A large number of community stakeholders participated in the two-year Breaking Cycles study. We shared our time, experiences and knowledge with UHCDC with the expectation that DCR would pay attention to the study, and take its findings seriously. But it has not worked out that way. At a Community of Practice meeting in 2024, someone asked a key member of the State’s jail planning team what DCR was going to do with the Breaking Cycles study. He replied that they would “winnow through it” it and see what they could afford. That was essentially all he said about a study that had taken two years to complete, and involved virtually all of the stakeholders on Oahu. **Establishing an Advisory Committee to incorporate the study’s ideas and concepts into the planning process, will make the time and effort working with UHCDC worthwhile. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a rehabilitative jail that will save money and lives.**

8. DCR has never disclosed planning or design details for the new jail since its February 1, 2017 Progress Report to the State Legislature. Passage of SCR 89, SD 1 would provide an opportunity to replace or supplement DCR's design parameters, if any, with the rehabilitative design parameters in the Breaking Cycles study which includes key design concepts and a design framework, design principles, design considerations, design elements, and a proof-of-concept study for various design features.

9. The Breaking Cycles study is a groundbreaking work in correctional planning and design. It is well-researched, builds on the best ideas from previous reports and studies, takes into account the best design ideas from the U.S. and around the world, reflects the values and vision of the community, incorporates a Native Hawaiian well-being framework, and most importantly, show us what is possible if we are committed to designing and building a jail that will address the physical, mental, social, and economic problems faced by those caught up in our criminal legal system. **Ignoring it would be a tragic waste of time, talent and money, a great disservice to the many members of the community who participated in the study, and to the multi-disciplinary team of U.H. faculty and students who worked so hard to produce the study. The Legislature should pass SCR 89, SD 1 to ensure that it is not dismissed, marginalized, or ignored.**

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important resolution.

ENDNOTES

¹ The Correctional Reform Working Group, "Getting It Right: Recommendations and Action Plan for a Better Jail" (2023). <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Getting-It-Right-Recommendations-and-Action-Plan-for-a-Better-Jail-with-Appendix.pdf>

² University of Hawaii Community Design Center, Breaking Cycles: Alternative Models for Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice on Oahu, Proof of Concept Study, prepared for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, February, 2025, p.10. <https://www.breaking-cycles-symposium.org>.

³ See, James R. Robertson, *Jail Planning and Expansion, Local Officials and Their Roles*, Second Edition (Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections, 2010) <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/022668.pdf>; Justice Partners, "Ten Steps to System Change, Prepared for the MacArthur Foundation Safety+Justice Challenge, August, 2015 https://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/10-Steps-To-System-Change_JSP-Brief.pdf ; Justice Management Institute, From Silo To System: What Makes A

Justice System Operate Like A System, April 2015, 17, http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/From-Silo-to-System-30-APR2015_FINAL.pdf; Ken Ricci and Laura Maiello, *A Systematic Approach to Sustainability* (New York: GLC/Ricci Greene Associates, 2007) https://riccigreene.com/content/pub_attachment/article_23_Thu_2012.pdf; HCR 85 Task Force on Effective Incarceration Policies and Improving Hawaii’s Correctional System, Interim Report to the Hawaii Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 https://lrb.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017_InterimReportOfTheHCR85TaskForceOnEffectiveIncarcerationPolicies.pdf; HCR 85 Task Force on Prison Reform Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities, Final Report to the Hawaii Legislature 2019 Regular Session “(December, 2018) https://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/HCR-85_task_force_final_report.pdf; David M. Bennett and Donna Latin, *Jail Capacity Planning Guide: A Systems Approach*, National Institute of Corrections, November, 2009; Correctional Reform Working Group, *Getting It Right: Recommendations and Action Plan for a Better Jail*, <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Getting-It-Right-Recommendations-and-Action-Plan-for-a-Better-Jail-with-Appendix.pdf>

⁴ Breaking Cycles, note 1 supra. at 12.

⁵ Breaking Cycles, note 1 supra. at 12-17.

⁶ Act 179 (Hawaii Sess. Laws. 2019)(mandate to transition correctional system to therapeutic and rehabilitative system; Act 278 (Hawaii. Sess. Laws 2022)(changing name from Department of Public Safety to Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; §355-1 (ensuring that inmates housed elsewhere receive rehabilitative services and treatment equal to those in-state; HRS353-6 (rehabilitative programs); See generally, *Getting it Right*, supra. note 2, pp. 16-21.

⁷ See generally, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission, “Hoe Amai: The Current State of Reentry in Hawaii,” March 7, 2026. <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025.3.7-Hoe-Amau-Reentry-Report-Final.pdf>

⁸ Kevin Dayton, Gov. Josh Green Wants ‘A Better Proposal for New Oahu Jail, Honolulu Civil Beat, January 20, 2023. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/01/gov-josh-green-wants-a-better-proposal-for-new-oahu-jail/>

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

**RECEIVED
Date & Time**

Apr 15, 2026, 7:27 am

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

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

LATE

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

10:30 AM

Room 411 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

SUPPORT for SCR 89 SD1 - Requesting DCR to provide up on BREAKING CYCLES Report

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto 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 3,111 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on April 6, 2026.

We are always mindful that more than 45% of Hawai`i's imprisoned male population (794 individuals) 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 from their ancestral lands. This is definitely not rehabilitation!

Community Alliance on Prisons supports SCR 89 SD1's inclusion of a formerly incarcerated male and a formally incarcerated female as well as two ACO's who participated in the staff survey. It would be great if the two ACO's work at OCCC because they know the population there and what is sorely needed to help develop recommendations and implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation and restorative justice on O`ahu.

Mahalo for the chance to support the Hawai`i Correctional System Oversight Commission to establish an Advisory Committee before we spend millions more of taxpayer funds in these challenging fiscal times.

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, April 6, 2026
[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-04-06.pdf](#)