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February 7, 2026

SB3107: RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports SB3107**. This measure amends Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 353-64 to clarify that the Parole Board may require, as a condition for parole eligibility that a committed person participate in work furlough, or "other programs designed to assist the committed person with successful reintegration back into the community."

HRS § 353-64 properly recognizes that the requirement of program participation shall not apply if the committed person is in a correctional facility where such programs are not available. SB3107 further amends HRS § 353-64 to clarify that the "program requirements can be waived at the discretion of the Hawaii paroling authority." Many programs are available only at certain facilities and require a committed person to move through the system via changes in custody level and transfer to participate in those programs. For example, a corrected person generally starts off their incarceration at medium custody. In order to reach a work furlough facility, their custody level must be reduced via the point system from medium to minimum to community custody. The transfer to a minimum, then community custody facility requires available space at those facilities. The Hawai'i Paroling Authority should retain discretion to allow committed persons who, by not fault of their own, are unable to participate in programming due to their inability to transfer to an appropriate facility. This does not create a public safety issue as the Hawai'i Paroling Authority still retains the discretion to require a person, as a condition of granting parole, to participate in appropriate programming in the community.

As this amendment is designed to confirm that the Hawai'i Paroling Authority may waive any of the programming requirements set forth in the preceding sections of the statute, the OPD suggests the following amendment to the added language.

and [the foregoing] program [participation] requirements can be waived at the discretion of the Hawai'i [P]aroling [A]uthority.

“Program requirements” in the original added language could be construed to refer to program requirements within a particular program. As it appears that the intent of the amendment is to allow the Hawai'i Paroling Authority to waive participation in certain programs, “the foregoing program participation requirements” would be more accurate.

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'
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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MILTON H. KOTSUBO
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VACANT
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SB 3107, RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY

by
Gene DeMello, Chairman
Hawaii Paroling Authority

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice-Chair

Monday, February 9, 2026 – 3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

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

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) strongly supports SB 3107 and companion bill HB 2288. HPA performs quasi-judicial functions and is the central paroling authority for the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) govern fixing and reducing minimum terms of imprisonment and granting parole, and other administrative functions.

The proposed HRS amendment to §353-64 addresses participation in additional correctional programs prior to parole eligibility besides academic, vocational education, or prison industries. These additional programs include treatment for substance abuse and mental health issues, work furlough, and other programs necessary to address an inmate's criminogenic needs and/or risk factors. The proposed amendment also allows the parole board to waive these programs.

These programs align with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) paradigm shift from a punitive to rehabilitative and re-entry model. DCR administers a Receiving and Diagnostic (RAD) risk and needs assessment upon admission. The RAD assessment identifies and prioritizes an inmate's criminogenic (risk) factors and the necessary programs that address these factors and reduce recidivism. RAD assessments and program recommendations are the blueprint that incentivize progressing through the correctional system and improve readiness for parole. An inmate's risk posed to the community and risk of recidivism are substantially reduced after completion of substance abuse treatment and when mental health issues are addressed and managed. Both issues closely correlate to criminality and perpetual incarceration when they go unaddressed.

Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs
February 9, 2026
Page 2

The benefits of requiring inmates to participate in work furlough and other correctional programs include a gradual transition with improved stability and readiness for release on parole; facilitates secured housing, employment, and increased financial stability; provides gradual resocialization and reunification with family and community members; and provides a seamless transition from incarceration to parole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in support of SB 3107 and HB 2288.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 3107
RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Palekana Lehulehu, a
me ke Kuleana Pū‘ali Koa
Hawai‘i State Capitol

Pepeluai 9, 2026

3:15 PM

Lumi 411

Aloha e Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Palekana Lehulehu, a me ke Kuleana Pū‘ali Koa:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB3107** which clarifies and expands parole eligibility criteria to include participation in treatment, work furlough, and other reintegration-focused programs in addition to academic and vocational education programs.

OHA appreciates measures that strengthen rehabilitation pathways and support successful community reintegration for incarcerated individuals. SB3107 reflects current correctional best practices by recognizing that treatment, behavioral health programming, work furlough, and cognitive and life-skills programs are central to reducing recidivism and improving post-release stability.

Including treatment and reintegration programs within parole eligibility criteria appropriately aligns incentives by encouraging meaningful program participation while individuals are in custody. Recognizing work furlough within this framework is especially important because it supports employment readiness, family reconnection, and housing stability prior to release.

Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in Hawai‘i’s correctional system and face elevated barriers to employment, health care access, and stable housing upon release. Policies that expand access to and recognition of rehabilitative and reentry programming help address these disparities and support healthier outcomes for OHA beneficiaries and their families.

SB3107 also maintains practical flexibility by allowing exceptions where programs are not available and preserving the Hawai‘i Paroling Authority’s discretion, ensuring that eligibility standards remain fair, workable, and individualized.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS SB3107**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

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 3107, Relating to Parole Eligibility
Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2026; 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

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

The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) submits testimony in **opposition** of House Bill 3107, relating to parole eligibility, which amends section 353-64, HRS, to require participation in work furlough, if recommended, for parole eligibility.

Although more programming and required participation in furlough may seem like a logical requirement for successful integration, the Commission is concerned that this will only keep more people incarcerated as *access* to furlough and programming has been a consistent issue within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). In March 2025, the Commission released its first inaugural report, [Hoe Amau](#), on the current state of reentry in Hawaii. This report specifically covered the Department's compliance with Chapter 353H *Comprehensive Offender Reentry Program* of Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Commission determined that the DCR was in compliance with 21 sections, mostly in compliance with 11 sections, mostly not in compliance with 18 sections and not in compliance with 51 sections of Chapter 353H. The Department's lack of compliance resulted in weak or missing reentry planning for the population, gaps in required services and programs, identification and documentation access failures (state IDs, birth certificates, social security cards), poor performance tracking, staffing and capacity shortfalls, and higher risk of failed reintegration. All of these deeply impact the incarcerated population at no fault of their own.

Additionally, the Commission has consistently found that furlough is severely underutilized and people who are currently eligible to be placed in furlough remain at higher level facilities. As of January 28, 2026, there were sixty individuals classified as Community status who were housed in Halawa Correctional Facility, Waiawa Correctional Facility, or Kulani Correctional Facility – none of which have furlough. Additionally, there were 238 individuals classified as Minimum

custody who were housed in higher level facilities (not minimum facilities as required by policy). Since individuals cannot progress to furlough without spending time at a minimum facility, this again highlights how the disregard for policy and law can deeply impact an individual's access to programming and furlough activities, even if they are eligible for such opportunities. If the Department does not provide access, reentry integration will not be successful. For all of these reasons, the Commission does not support this bill.

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.

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 3107, Relating to Parole Eligibility
Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 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) submits testimony in **opposition** of Senate Bill 3107, relating to parole eligibility, which amends section 353-64, HRS, to require participation in work furlough, if recommended, for parole eligibility.

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

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3107
RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

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, February 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & via Videoconference

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

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **strongly supports** the Senate Bill (SB) 3107, which proposes to amend Section 353-64, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to include participation in correctional programs for parole eligibility: (1) treatment (substance abuse, mental health, sex offender); (2) work furlough as part of vocational education; and (3) other programs designed to assist the committed person with successful reintegration back into the community.

By amending Section 353-64, HRS, this bill ensures that critical programs—including substance abuse and mental health treatment, sex offender rehabilitation, and work furloughs—are formally recognized as valid pathways to parole. This is a vital shift for the following reasons:

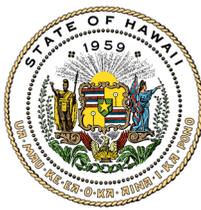
- **Reduces Recidivism:** Participation in specialized treatment and reintegration programs directly addresses the root causes of criminal behavior, such as addiction and mental illness, leading to more successful and permanent community reentry.
- **Encourages Rehabilitation:** When inmates know that completing high-impact programs like work furlough will be counted toward their parole eligibility, they have a stronger incentive to engage in meaningful personal growth.

SB 3107 Relating to Parole Eligibility.
February 11, 2026
Page 2

Expanding these criteria allows the Hawai'i Paroling Authority to more accurately assess an individual's readiness to return to society. DCR respectfully urges the committee to pass SB 3107 to strengthen its rehabilitation system and improve public safety across our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3107.

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. _____

LATE

LATE

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3107
RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

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, February 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & via Videoconference

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- **Reduces Recidivism:** Participation in specialized treatment and reintegration programs directly addresses the root causes of criminal behavior, such as addiction and mental illness, leading to more successful and permanent community reentry.
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SB 3107 Relating to Parole Eligibility.
February 11, 2026
Page 2

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3107.



SB3107 Parole if Attend Treatment

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, Feb 11, 2026: 3:00: Room 016 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB3107:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services.

Substance use disorder is a **chronic, treatable medical condition**. For many, addiction—not criminal intent is the underlying driver of repeated offenses.

Allowing offenders to parole to access treatment does **not mean eliminating accountability**. Parole conditions can and should include strict supervision, mandatory program participation, regular testing, and swift consequences for non-compliance. This approach balances responsibility with rehabilitation and protects the community while giving individuals a real chance at recovery.

Hawaii State plans strategizes the need to identify and treat people with SUD when they interact with the criminal justice system. This reflects a **science-based public health orientation** — recognizing SUD as a treatable condition that should be integrated with corrections and community supervision systems.

Hawaii has a track record of using structured supervision programs linked to treatment engagement — and those programs show **better compliance and reduced drug use** than traditional supervision alone.

High Prevalence of Substance Use Disorders Among Offenders. Hawai‘i’s recidivism exceeds **50%** for some cohorts, and testimony around policy reforms has explicitly linked **access to substance use treatment to reduce recidivism** when combined with supports like housing and food security.

National research from SAMHSA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) shows that:

- **treatment reduces relapse and criminal behavior** compared with no treatment,
- **continuity of care from incarceration into community supervision** improves long-term outcomes, and

- **evidence-based treatment approaches (e.g., MAT, CBT)** reduce reoffending for people with SUD.

A California Parolee SUD treatment program data found that **providing effective SUD treatment to parolees** can:

- ✓ **Substance abuse treatment—especially when continued after release—is evidence-based and linked with better outcomes:**
- ✓ **Reduces Recidivism**
- ✓ **Supports Health Outcomes**
- ✓ **Save public funds by reducing costs of crime and re-incarceration**

Evidence consistently shows that individuals who receive structured, evidence-based substance abuse treatment are significantly less likely to reoffend. Treatment-focused parole reduces recidivism, lowers correctional costs, and helps individuals stabilize their lives through sobriety, employment, and family reunification. In contrast, denying parole solely due to untreated addiction often leads to a cycle of release, relapse, and re-incarceration.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

SB-3107

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:50:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Baker	Testifying for Hina Mauka	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hina Mauka **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB3107.

Substance use disorder is a chronic but treatable health condition, and for many people cycling through the justice system, addiction—rather than criminal intent—is the root cause of repeated involvement. Allowing individuals to parole for the purpose of accessing treatment does not excuse behavior or remove accountability. Parole can include rigorous supervision, mandatory treatment participation, regular testing, and immediate consequences for violations. This balanced approach prioritizes public safety while addressing the underlying condition driving recidivism. Hawai‘i has already embraced a science-based, public health framework by integrating substance use treatment into corrections and community supervision, and the state’s experience with structured supervision tied to treatment has demonstrated stronger compliance and reduced substance use compared to supervision alone.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and we encourage your support of SB3107.

Mahalo.

SB-3107

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:21:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/9/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators:

As the prior manager of the BRIDGE Program that has been located at Laumaka Work Furlough Center and also at the Womens Community Correctional Center. I have first hand knowledge of the success that programs such as these for reentry into the community have for long time success. I totally support this bill because programs such as these do help offenders to be successful and stay out from reoffending and recidivism for failing to follow parole parameters. Programs such as these will make parole more successful.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, SAP-5 (Retired)

SB-3107

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:11:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3107 and ask that you pass it. The bill's purpose is to increase the opportunities for incarcerated persons to obtain parole by participating in activities designed to help the person reintegrate into society upon release. The current law does not recognize many activities that can contribute to successful reintegration.

Please. pass SB3107.