

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3108
RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM
INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND.

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

Monday, February 9, 2026, at 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Via Video Conference

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

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **strongly supports** Senate Bill (SB) 3108, which seeks to remove the \$600,000 annual expenditure ceiling on the Automated Victim Information and Notification System (SAVIN) Special Fund. This change is necessary to address rising program costs and increased demand for victim services, ensuring uninterrupted notifications and continued operational flexibility.

DCR is statutorily obligated to establish and operate the SAVIN system which is administered by DCR's Victim Notification Services Office (VNSO). Under HRS §353-136(d), the SAVIN Special Fund must be used exclusively for development and operating expenses of the system, including salaries, and fringe benefits of positions as authorized by the legislature. Victims frequently contact SAVIN (24/7, 365 days per year) and DCR's VNSO for more than just notifications but also to seek information and connections to support services. Essential functions such as statewide SAVIN system monitoring, rapid issue resolution, and follow-up on victim inquiries may be compromised, potentially

SB 3108 Relating to the Expenditure Ceiling on the Automated Victim Information and Notification System Special Fund.
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Monday, February 9, 2026

causing additional harm should there be even minor delay or interruption of these services.

Since the establishment of SAVIN under the DCR (then the Department of Public Safety) over a decade ago, there has been just one (1) increase in the annual expenditure cap, from \$300,000 to \$600,000, which included the approval of three (3) additional authorized SAVIN positions. Steady collective bargaining unit increases, rising costs of the SAVIN system contract, and rent and lease expenses, including telephone and internet service charges, continue to reduce available operating funds, limiting the program's ability to advance.

The current cap has already forced difficult decisions, including temporarily freezing the hiring of an authorized position to cover essential operational expenses and ensure there is no delay or interruption in victim services. These measures are not ideal, especially for an already small unit (5) with limited staffing of three (3) but was unfortunately necessary. Eliminating the cap would allow VNSO to responsibly use available special funds as it intended to meet DCR's statutory mandate to efficiently operate the statewide SAVIN system. Under the current annual expenditure cap, we are unable to meet rising costs, maintain staffing levels, and preserve critical infrastructure, including system maintenance and office space.

Increasing victim registrations and escalating operational expenses, without the flexibility to address them expeditiously, directly threaten service reliability and victims' trust. Senate Bill (SB) 3108 is a necessary adjustment and provides a practical, fiscally responsible solution to ensure DCR can continue its vital mission of protecting victims and strengthening public safety. We respectfully urge you to pass this measure and provide DCR's VNSO with the flexibility it needs to serve Hawai'i communities effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB 3108.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII – KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3108
RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND
NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Good afternoon Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (“Commission”) with the opportunity to testify before you today in strong support of Senate Bill 3108. SB 3108 removes the \$600,000 annual expenditure ceiling on the Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system special fund to address rising program costs and growing victim service demands. Without this increase the SAVIN program will not be able to serve the rising demand of victims and agencies that rely on timely notifications.

The Commission provides compensation for victims of violent crime to pay un-reimbursed expenses for crime-related losses due to physical or mental injury or death. In addition, the Commission serves on and formerly chaired the SAVIN Governance Committee, which guides the SAVIN program in Hawai'i. The Governance Committee is comprised of county victim service providers and advocates, crime victims, technology experts, and members of the criminal justice community.

The SAVIN program has provided tens of thousands of notifications to crime victims, witnesses, survivors, victim service providers, law enforcement agencies, and concerned members of the public with timely information about changes in an offender's custody status. The ability for crime victims to have input in decision making about an offender's release,

the impact of the offender's release on the victim's safety, as well as on the safety of the public, is dependent on timely notification which the SAVIN program provides.

In order to meet rising demand and support victims and survivors during the post-conviction process, it is necessary to remove the current expenditure ceiling. Since FY 2023, registrations in the SAVIN system have increased by 38.9% with 16,424 new registrations in 2 years. The rising cost of the SAVIN system and escalating operational expenses driven in part by collective bargaining increases, will continue to undermine the SAVIN program's funding base unless the ceiling is removed.

Thank you for providing the Commission with the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 3108.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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COREY J. REINCKE
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SB 3108 RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING
ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND
AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

by
Corey J. Reincke
Paroles and Pardons Administrator
Hawaii Paroling Authority

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 – Room 415

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

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill (SB) 3108. Victims will be able to exercise their rights, or engage in safety planning, when receiving statutorily mandated notification about offender's escape/transfer/movement and/or parole release. This important system protects crime victims and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 3108. We will be available for any questions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai'i

February 11, 2026

**RE: S.B. 3108; RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE
AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL
FUND.**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 3108.

S.B. No. 3108 removes the outdated \$600,000 annual expenditure ceiling on the Automated Victim Information and Notification System (SAVIN) Special Fund. This measure is essential to ensuring that crime victims receive the timely, reliable notifications they deserve. Each notification also reminds victims that our community cares about them and their safety.

When victims are informed of custody changes, court proceedings, and parole hearings, they can make informed decisions about their safety and participate meaningfully in the justice process. The SAVIN system is not merely administrative—it is a lifeline for victims navigating the often overwhelming criminal justice system.

The dramatic increase in victim registration reflects both growing public awareness and, regrettably, the persistent reality of crime in our community. Yet while demand has intensified, the statutory expenditure cap has remained frozen, creating an untenable situation that threatens service continuity.

From a prosecutorial perspective, reliable victim notification directly supports successful prosecutions. Informed victims are empowered victims. They attend hearings, provide crucial testimony, and cooperate throughout proceedings. When notification systems fail, we risk losing victim engagement—and with it, cases that should result in accountability and justice.

Victim notification serves public safety. By registering for alerts about offenders in their neighborhoods, victims and witnesses can take appropriate precautions. This proactive approach to safety is especially vital for domestic violence survivors and other vulnerable populations facing ongoing risk.

We urge this committee to recognize that protecting victims is not an area for austerity. The expenditure ceiling made sense when originally enacted, but circumstances have evolved dramatically. Removing this outdated restriction is a modest but essential investment in victim rights, public safety, and the integrity of our justice system.

The Department urges this Committee to pass S.B. 3108.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 3108

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs: The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony **in strong support** of Senate Bill 3108.

S.B. 3108 was drafted with the intent to remove the \$600,000 annual expenditure ceiling on Hawai'i's Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System ("SAVIN") Special Fund to address rising program costs and growing victim service demands.

SAVIN offers victims, law enforcement, and all concerned citizens free, anonymous, and confidential access to timely information and notification on the custody and parole status of offenders under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Registered users receive notifications via email, text, phone call, and/or in-app. Live operator assistance is always available to field any questions the users may have. Registration information is not shared with offenders.

It often times seems as though our criminal justice system places greater emphasis and focus on offenders. We need more legislation and programs like SAVIN that support victims, their healing, crime prevention awareness, and promote public safety.

S.B. 3108 supports the funding necessary to continue to improve Hawai'i's victim notification and services, all the while contributing to a safer and healthier Hawai'i. For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney **strongly supports** the passage of S.B. 3108. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-3108

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:16:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toby Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My testimony is in **strong support** of Senate Bill 3108. This bill removes the \$600,000 annual expenditure ceiling on the SAVIN (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System) Special Fund to address ongoing program cost increases and growing victim service demands.

The SAVIN Special Fund is used exclusively to provide free, anonymous, and confidential access to timely information and notification 24/7 365 days a year on the custody and parole status of offenders under the authority of the State of Hawaii’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). It is an invaluable resource for victims, witnesses, and survivors.

With the current annual expenditure cap, it is more and more difficult to operate the SAVIN system and adequately cover essential operational expenditures. Rising program expenses, maintaining appropriate staffing levels, and preserving critical infrastructure (such as system maintenance and office space) make it increasingly difficult to fulfill the statutory mandates of the SAVIN Special Fund.

It is essential to ensure uninterrupted access to status information and the timely notification of any changes in a perpetrator’s custody. Notification includes both a change in status as well as victims’ rights and the knowledge of when they have opportunities to provide input and comments for parole hearings and minimum setting hearings. The SAVIN system is the responsibility of DCR’s Victim Notification Services Office (VNSO). This includes monitoring the system, resolving technical issues, and supporting victims, witnesses, and survivors who call in with questions or issues about utilization of and notifications received from the SAVIN system.

Additionally, without this increase the SAVIN program will not be able to serve the growing needs of crime victims and agencies that rely on timely notifications.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to present this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 3108.



Dennis M. Dunn

Kailua, HI 96734

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TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

RE: SB 3108, RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

HEARING: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 16

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga and Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. I am providing testimony in **Strong Support of S.B. 3108**. This Bill is intended to lift the current expenditure ceiling on the SAVIN Special Fund. The comments made in my testimony are drawn from my nearly 50 years of experience as an advocate for crime victims, forty-four of which were as an employee of the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office, serving as Director of the Victim Witness Kokua Services from 1985 to 2022.

The SAVIN Special Fund is critical funding source for SAVIN, the State's Automated Victim Notification System. The establishment of SAVIN by the Legislature in 2012 was a monumental accomplishment for crime victims in Hawaii as it insured consistent and sustainable automated notifications about the custody status of individuals in the custody of the Department of Public Safety on a 24/7 basis. The SAVIN system ensures that critical information relating to victim safety is available to victims on a timely basis, allowing them to make important decisions and take timely actions to protect themselves from offenders who are being released

Thousands of crime victims depend daily on SAVIN notifications to prepare themselves to seek safety options when an offender is released from custody. Victim advocates also depend on this system to alert them that victims will need immediate safety planning assistance, crisis counseling, and emotional support. When SAVIN was first initiated in 2012 it may have made sense to have a \$600,000 annual expenditure cap, but current rates of inflation and expanded needs for staff and equipment have left Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation struggling unnecessarily to meet the funding needs for a growing and changing SAVIN program development and improvement. The elimination

of this arbitrary and outdated funding is essential for the efficient and effective operation of the SAVIN program. Please **support S.B. 3108** as the effective means to accomplish this badly needed amendment to the SAVIN Special Fund.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.