

SCR 149

**REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AUDIT OF
COMMISSARY OPERATIONS AT OUT-OF-STATE CORRECTIONAL
FACILITIES CONTRACTED TO HOUSE HAWAII INMATES.**

PSM, WAM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn H. Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AUDIT OF
COMMISSARY OPERATIONS AT OUT-OF-STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
CONTRACTED TO HOUSE HAWAII INMATES

Nolan P. Espinda Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2015; 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 149, requesting the Auditor conduct a financial audit of commissary operations at out-of-state correctional facilities contracted to house Hawaii inmates.

Pursuant to the PSD's contractual agreement with Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), proceeds from the commissary services shall benefit inmates housed at Saguaro Correctional Center. Proceeds shall be used for items such as recreation equipment, satellite television in housing units, and food prizes for the entire housing unit awarded in monthly dorm competitions for the cleanest unit. Revenues are used for commissary operating expenses such as inventory purchase and commissary worker salary and benefits.

All correctional facilities in Pinal County are required to charge Arizona state tax on taxable commissary items. Saguaro Correctional Center is the only facility that adds

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an additional 4% surcharge to taxable commissary items in accordance with §353-136, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Phone time and postage stamps are exempt from the state tax and surcharge.

The PSD will assist the Auditor's Office in collecting the information necessary to conduct the audit and facilitate access to correctional facilities upon request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:27 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR149 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM*

SCR149

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 12:56 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mauicrowe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR149 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM

SCR149

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james crowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: When money of The Department of Public Safety is spent for it's original purpose, Hawaii inmates will have more of a chance of receiving proper services

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:34 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR149 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM

SCR149

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gladys Coelho Baisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 149 There are many families who can relate to the experiences that they know of about the price gouging at Saguaro. I don't think there has ever been an audit of CCA's commissary or if the department has ever questioned the price increases that have routinely occurred. We need to help the families, many who are already struggling to make ends meet while they scrape together money to send to those inside.

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