

SCR 67/SR 35

Measure Title:

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STAND-ALONE REENTRY CENTER IN HONOLULU FOR RECOVERING CRIMINAL OFFENDERS, WHICH IS TO INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL AND DAY-REPORTING PROGRAM OPTIONS.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (SCR) 67 AND SENATE RESOLUTION (SR) 35
RELATING TO

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STAND-
ALONE REENTRY CENTER IN HONOLULU FOR RECOVERING CRIMINAL
OFFENDERS, WHICH IS TO INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL AND DAY-REPORTING
PROGRAM OPTIONS

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Thursday, March 21, 2013, 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** SCR67 / SR 35 which encourages PSD to seriously consider the establishment and implementation of a stand-alone reentry center in Honolulu for recovering criminal offenders, which is to include residential and day-reporting program options.

PSD would consider the construction and operation of a stand-alone community reentry center, inclusive of a day-reporting program, in Honolulu for qualified low-risk offenders returning to the community who are near their completion of incarceration or for offenders who are returning to custody for a parole violation. The reentry center would also assist PSD with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative of returning inmates from the mainland by creating additional community placement for inmates transitioning back into the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Roz Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 21, 2013

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SCR 67 - Residential Reentry Center & Day Reporting Program

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker 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 for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SCR 67 encourages the department of public safety to seriously consider the establishment and implementation of a stand-alone reentry center in Honolulu for recovering criminal offenders, which is to include residential and day reporting program options.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in support of this measure.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons has used Residential Reporting Centers (RRCs) to assist those exiting federal prison in their successful transition back to their communities. In a statement before the U.S. Sentencing Commission¹, former BOP Director Harry Lappin said:

"Inmates who are released through RRCs are more likely to be gainfully employed and therefore less likely to recidivate as compared to inmates who are released from a prison directly to the community. We have recently begun to place inmates at low risk for recidivism (based on their age, criminal history and other criminogenic factors) and with few reentry needs (housing, employment, family ties) directly into home confinement wherever possible, allowing us to allocate the RRC beds to those with a need for the services and structure provided in that environment."

¹ Statement of Harley G. Lappin, Director, Bureau of Prisons before U.S. Sentencing Commission, Regional Hearing on the State of Federal Sentencing, Austin Texas, November 20, 2009 <http://www.ussc.gov/AGENDAS/20091119/Lappin.pdf>

Since BOP has found that not every individual needs the more intensive services of the Residential Reentry Center, the inclusion of the Day Reporting Program is an important element for those who could be placed on home confinement so that the RRC beds could be used for those needing more structure.

One concrete proposal for cutting expenditures on incarceration would be to reduce the number of non-violent offenders in prison and jail by half (with no change in the incarceration rates for violent offenders).²

Since Hawai'i's correctional facilities are bursting with non-violent drug offenders, and sine we know that 98% of incarcerated persons will return to the community one day, it is wise to invest in reentry/reintegration services in the interest of public safety.

Please support SCR 67 as a strategy that has proven successful in protecting public safety and assisting those making the transition from institutional to community life.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

² **The High Budgetary Cost of Incarceration**, John Schmitt, Kris Warner, and Sarika Gupta, June 2010, Center for Economic and Policy Research. <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/incarceration-2010-06.pdf>

SR35

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for PSM on Mar 21, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments: Although our organization does not support incremental improvements to a failing criminal justice system (bandaids), we must go on record to support any progressive resolutions and those working in a positive manner to serve our paahao. Please note that the real solution to this broken system is the Pu`uhonua that is now law in Act 117 signed by Governor Abercrombie in June, 2012. Mahalo for allowing us to testify!

From: Robert Merce [mercer001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 12:43 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Subject: Support for SR35/SCR67 (Corrections; Reentry Center; Day Reporting Program).

Dear Senator Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Member of the Committee:

I strongly support SR35/SCR67 (Corrections; Reentry Center; Day Reporting Program) and urge your committee to pass it.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Merce
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, HI 96821