

STATE TESTIMONY



A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
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Hawaii's Voice for Sensible, Compassionate, and Just Drug Policy

TO: SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS & HEALTH

FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, M.P.H., PRESIDENT

DATE: MARCH 20, 2 p.m., ROOM 414

RE: H.B. 840, HD1 RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF CORRECTIONAL
TREATMENT FACILITY – COMMENTS

Good afternoon Chair Espero, Chair Green and members of the committees. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm President of the Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG), the government affairs arm of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i.

For many years DPAG has advocated policies to reduce our prison population. Rather than constructing new facilities, we prefer an upstream approach to divert non-violent offenders, in particular, before subjecting them to incarceration.

We urge the state to fully implement Justice Reinvestment to help reduce the potential prisoner population.

Thank you for very much for listening and for giving us the opportunity to testify today.