



THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

LATE TESTIMONY

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

DATE: April 20, 2015

Advisory Board

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs

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Mimi Beams

Vice President
Peter Van Zile

Joanne H. Arizumi

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Mark J. Bennett

Andre Bisquera

Marilyn Carlsmith

RE: Testimony in Support of H.C.R. 146, H.D. 2
Requesting the Dept. of Public Safety to Form a Working Group

Senator
Suzanne Chun Oakland

Monica Cobb-Adams

Donne Dawson

Dennis Dunn

Councilmember
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I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (the SATC), a program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, in support of House Concurrent Resolution 146, House Draft 2 (H.C.R. 146, H.D. 2).

H.C.R. 146, H.D. 2 requests that the Department of Public Safety form a working group to examine and make a report of smarter sentencing methods to improve the quality and reliability of sentencing practices, with specific reference to cases over the last ten years in which smarter sentencing principles were applied to the negotiation and recommendation of a sentence; cases during the same period to which the principles could have been applied; and possibilities to design, implement and streamline a sentencing process applying the principles.

The smarter sentencing principles referenced in H.C.R. 146, H.D. 2 are part of a general movement towards implementing evidence-based decision making policies and processes throughout the criminal justice system. The goals of such policies and processes are to apply science and research to: (1) undo and prevent damage to communities caused by crime and its after effects; (2) reduce the creation and growth of "crime culture"; (3) prevent contagion of criminality from one generation to the next; (4) mitigate the high costs of incarceration; and (5) reduce distrust in the justice system by assuring responsiveness to community, victim, and offender needs.

The SATC strongly supports implementing evidence-based methods to improve the sentencing process with respect to these purposes, emphasizing the importance of applying necessary and appropriate sanctions that deter would-be criminals from committing offenses; restrain offenders to limit their opportunities to commit further crime; prevent perpetrators from repeating their offenses or committing worse crimes in the future; and help victims and communities to recover from crimes.

By helping to ensure that criminal sanctions in the State of Hawai'i effectively address all of the harmful impacts of crime on our island communities, your support for the formation of a working group to guide use of smarter sentencing principles in our justice system represents a strong, positive step towards healing those affected by crime and preventing future offenses.