



**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2018  
TIME: 1:15 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Support with amendments – Relating to Corrections

We support this bill's goal of eliminating the state's power to contract with private prisons and limiting transfer of people committed to state and federal correctional institutions outside of Hawai'i, but we object to transferring people who have been convicted of violent crimes "under section 351-32 to any federal correctional institution for imprisonment" and to "out-of-state institutions."

Research has demonstrated that family visits help prevent prison misbehavior, which is especially important for people convicted of higher risk violent crimes, and family connection can significantly prevent recidivism.

"Visitation, and more consistent visitation in particular, is associated with less prison misconduct" (Cochran, 2012, *The ties that bind or the ties that break: Examining the relationship between visitation and prisoner misconduct*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 40:5, 433-440, p. 433, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047235212000785>).

In a paper, currently in press, discussing the findings of an independent evaluation of a reentry planning process developed and tested in Hawai'i, conducted by Janet Davidson, PhD., Chaminade criminology professor, shows that family connection, which the planning process assisted in facilitating, contributed to less recidivism for an experiment group of imprisoned people, compared to a control group that wanted, but did not receive the process (Walker & Davidson, in press, *Restorative justice reentry planning for the imprisoned: An evidence-based approach to recidivism reduction*, In Gavrielides, T., (Ed.) *The Routledge International Handbook of Restorative Justice* (2018). The Routledge International: London).

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice is a 30+ year old non-profit dedicated to improving our justice system. We design, implement and measure pilot projects using applied learning in an effort to generate evidence-based knowledge of what works to increase civic behavior, help people desist from crime, and assist those harmed by crime and social injustice. We have worked with imprisoned people since 2004. Numerous articles about our work including assisting imprisoned people reenter the community have been published and disseminated. Others, nationally and internationally, frequently contact us for assistance with reentry programs and policies.

Mahalo for your public service. Please contact me at (808) 218-3712 and [lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org](mailto:lorenn@hawaiiifriends.org) for any questions about our testimony and our work.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH

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**SB-2979**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:30:03 PM  
Testimony for PSM on 1/30/2018 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a first step in bringing back to Hawaii all of our people incarcerated in out-of-state prisons. The language of this bill should be changed so that it does not rely on the subjective terms of "violent" vs "non-violent". I also support the repeal of the Governor's authority to negotiate or contract for expansion or construction of private correctional facilities. This is a decision that impacts the people of Hawaii in many ways and must not be centralized in the hands of the Governor.

Thank you-

Raelyn Reyno Yeomans

**LATE**

**SB-2979**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:00:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/30/2018 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry		Support	No

Comments: