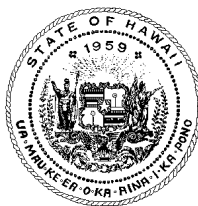


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1177, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 21, 2019; 12:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of House Bill (HB) 1177, House Draft (HD) 1, which would provide for the initiation of negotiations towards the State of Hawaii's purchase of the Federal Detention Center (FDC), located on the west side of the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:8089271214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 21, 2019

12:30 pm

Room 308

OPPOSITION to HB 1177 - PURCHASE OF FDC AS REPLACEMENT FOR OCCC

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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 in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as the approximately 5,400 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that more than 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Purchasing the federal detention center, and old-style prison, has been in the ether for a long, long time. This is a rush to judgement solution for a long-standing problem...overcriminalization and overcrowding.

Why is the House sneaking in this proposal to purchase the 20-year old federal detention facility AFTER the final report of the 2-year correctional reform task force?

If we really want to reduce recidivism and the overpopulation of our correctional facilities, we should take the bold steps many other jurisdictions have taken and implement real sentencing reform.

We cannot continue looking for space instead of looking for solutions. WE KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. The research is clear - overcriminalization leads to overcrowding and jails are the main drivers of mass incarceration.

Stop talking about buildings and talk about PEOPLE! 74% of our imprisoned population are serving sentences for the lowest felonies, misdemeanors, violations, petty misdemeanors and parole and probation violations. What we are doing is wasteful both socially and economically and this approach to corrections is clearly not sustainable.

Please hold this measure.

HB-1177-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:51:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1177-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 3:10:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. We need to stop and consider the recommendations of the task force to determine what is actually needed and stop using jail as housing for unsheltered people. Stop rushing this purchase and wasting taxpayer money....engage in full disclosure to the community and offer the opportunity for debate.

HB-1177-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:44:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1177-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:50:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1177-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 11:03:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Bethel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1177 HD1.

Buying the Honolulu Federal Detention Center would be an extremely unwise move. More discussion and community involvement needs to happen so that we do not make a ill-considered decision that will plague the state for decades and saddle Hawaii taxpayers with an inefficient and costly mistake.

Many advances have been made in the implementation of criminal justice, as clear from the experience of many other states. Hawaii needs to learn from the experience of other states.

The HCR 85 Task Force has laid out concrete suggestions. The task force recommendations must be considered if we are ever to make our criminal justice system more efficient, cost effective, and humane.

There is no reason that our jails should be populated with homeless, the mentally ill, and low-level drug offenders. Diversion programs that address specific problems such as presented by these three groups would be more efficient and cost effective than warehousing individuals at a huge cost to the Hawaii taxpayers.

Mahalo for your consideration.