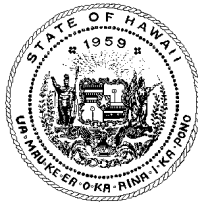


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
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**Maria C. Cook**  
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**Shari L. Kimoto**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2523, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1,  
PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 2,  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF 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

June 30, 2020; 2:05 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2523, Senate Draft (SD) 1, House Draft (HD) 1, House Draft (HD) 2 (Proposed), which reserves funding from PSD's fiscal year 2020-21 for the community-based furlough program for female inmates.

The measure recognizes the undisputed importance of community-based reentry programs, particularly for women.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2523, SD 1, HD 1, HD 2 Proposed.

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:06:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b>                             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Khara Jabola-Carolus | Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable Members,

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I thank the Committee for this opportunity to request the restoration of funding for the Fernhurst work furlough program. Women's programs are often the first to be sacrificed during times of fiscal belt tightening. This is indicative of systemic sexism, and in the case of Fernhurst specifically, the deprioritization of positive reforms to the justice system. Please invest in this community-based, effective program that should be expanded include all eligible inmates at WCCC. Please prioritize women's programs generally because the safety, stability, and success of women is the core of community safety.

Mahalo,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:11:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                       | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathleen Algire     | Hawai`i Children's Action Network Speaks! | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 2523 SD1 HD1. The work furlough program stewarded by YWCA O'ahu is an important part of our community. It centers the participants and provides holistic support. Additionally, it provides opportunities for family reunification in a way that can never happen behind bars. Due to budget shortfalls, there will be no visitation facility for incarcerated parents and their children but this is an opportunity to support justice-involved families. Fernhurst supports the mothers in their program to navigate the difficult reunification process. It has a lasting impact on a generation of keiki who began to heal their relationship in the dining room in Makiki. We need state investment in program like this, especially when the economy is bad, to support all families. Thank you for making this a priority and for the supporting SB 2523.

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:18:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Woo          | Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

In support of the **proposed HD2**, requiring the Department of Public Safety to expend certain appropriated funds during fiscal year 2020-2021 solely for the community-based work furlough program for female inmates. Mahalo.

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Subject: SB 2523, SD1, HD1 Proposed HD2**

Aloha Finance Chair Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and the member of the House Finance Committee,

YWCA O'ahu is in **full support** of SB 2523, SD1, HD1 Proposed HD2, that will require the Department of Public Safety to expend certain appropriated funds during fiscal year 2020-2021 solely for the community-based work furlough program for female inmates.

We have been honored to witness the difference a reentry program housed in the community makes to women transitioning out of the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). As they live and work as part of our society, women will regain confidence, a sense of worth and hope for the future. The community-based program also make family reunifications much easier.

YWCA O'ahu appreciates that a smooth passage of this bill would keep this unique program available to women across the state in the community and not take it back to the prison.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Dana Tokioka  
Board Chair



Noriko Namiki  
CEO

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:51:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mandy Fernandes     | ACLU of Hawaii      | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i supports S.B. 2523, Proposed H.D. 2, which requires the Department of Public Safety to fund a community-based work furlough program for women.

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:49:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| nanci kreidman      | domestic violence<br>action center | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

Support for the unduplicated program for incarcerated women re-entering the community operated by YWCA Fernhurst is imperative.

thank you for your favorable action.

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:18:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorraine            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Lorraine Robinson. I am a consultant for the YWCA Oahu Fernhurst work furlough program for women exiting prison. For over 20 years, I served as Executive Director of TJ Mahoney & Associates (previous contractor for the women's work furlough contract). Having directed this program for over two decades, I can unequivocally say that defunding this program is a huge step backward for the state of Hawaii. The program has received national recognition for being a leading edge, gender responsive, trauma informed and culturally coherent program. The almost 30 year history of building this program from the ground up cannot be replicated.

Since inception, nearly 2000 women have been served by this program with astounding success. 82-84% of graduates do NOT return to prison; this has huge ripple effects. Incarceration is intergenerational; the children prisoners become the next generation of inmates. The great majority of women served are mothers; keeping their children from entering the revolving door of prison is well worth the cost on the front end of providing quality reentry services.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. At this time in our nation's history, when demands for social and transformative justice abound, this is a chance for Hawaii to step up and be the model that we can be. We already HAVE a program that transforms women's lives. Funding this program allows us to say with more sincerity that we are indeed, the Aloha State.



**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:18:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maryann Bray        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and the Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Maryann Bray and I am a graduate of a community-based work furlough program. I am in full support of this Bill, SB2523 S.D.1, H.D.2, Proposed to grant funding to maintain the Community-based work furlough program at Fernhurst.

This program, and the services, guidance and support it provides is such a valuable asset to the women leaving WCCC and transitioning back into the community. Personally, I don't know how I would have made it without the work furlough program. Having a transitional program such as this in the community which provides wrap-around services for the women cannot be replicated within the prison setting. Additionally, the support does not end once a woman paroled and leave the facility. There are more programs geared toward job retention, and positive community support she can participate in. The community-based work furlough program at Fernhurst is gender responsive, and trauma informed to be able to meet the needs of the women, many of whom have sustained some form of trauma.

My wish is that this program will continue, and be expanded in the future to be able to serve more women in our state. I wish for a successful passage of this bill to enable the Fernhurst Community-based Work Furlough program to continue for the next Fiscal Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryann Bray

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:18:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alani Bagcal        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:30:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lois Kim            | Individual          | Comments                  | No                        |

Comments:

Subject: SB2523 SD1 HD2 Proposed

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and the members of the house finance committee,

I am in full support of the continuation of the YWCA Fernhurst contract.

My name is Lois Kim and I am a graduate of the YWCA Fernhurst program. This program has saved my life and created a hopeless situation into an amazing one. Through my drug addiction I was destined to remain a homeless addict. There was no point in trying to build for a better future as I did not believe it was even possible. My addiction kept me from my children and achieving any sort of normal future.

Fernhurst integrated me into the community in baby steps and was there every step of the way. The program offered me a safe place to start building a strong foundation. Through the wrap around services I was able to secure employment, reunite with my daughter, and simply gain confidence.

Today I have a career, am self-sufficient, a published author, a present mother, obtaining my MBA and know the importance of giving back to the community. I am proud to be me, because of who Fernhurst has helped me to become.

I urge you to continue to give the same chance I have had for my sisters entering a similar journey. I was supposed to die a homeless addict, instead I am a thriving member of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Lois Kim

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:31:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Monk            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Comments re funding for YWCA Fernhurst,

The work furlough program at YWCA Fernhurst cost less per day than incarcerating women in prison, so as tax payer I absolutely want to pay less for a work furlough program that results in less recidivism.

In the time of COVID19, when we are trying to reduce the numbers of people in congregate living situations like prisons, we should not put furloughed women back in prison without good cause.

A number of women who were returned to prison already had jobs and were paying taxes. I want to encourage tax paying citizens to continue contributing to the economy.

Sincerely,

Amy Monk

**SB-2523-HD-1**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:45:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/30/2020 2:05:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kepola Dudoit       | Individual          | Comments                  | No                        |

Comments:

Subject: SB2523 SD1 HD2 Proposed

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and The Member of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Kepola Dudoit and I am in full support of of SB2523. I am a graduate of the Fenhurst work furlough program. This program helped me build structure in my life with providing wrapped around services, social skills, job skills, permanent affordable housing, reunification with my family. It helped me intergrate back into society successfully.

This program is very effective for women coming out of prison to get their life back on track. Women who completed the program has pursued their dram jobs, reunite with their family, go back to scholl to get a higher education.

Without this program there will be no lives changed after prison. this program is a valuable resource and we need to preserve it.

Thank you,

Kepola

**ROBERT K. MERCER**  
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

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*email:* mercer001@hawaii.rr.com

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June 30, 2020

TO: House Finance Committee  
RE: SB2523 SD1 HD1 Proposed HD 2  
HEARING: January 30, 2020  
TIME: 2:05 p.m.  
ROOM: Conf. Rm. 329  
POSITION: Strongly Support

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee:

As vice-chair of the HCR 85 Task Force on Prison Reform and a member of the former Reentry Commission, I spent the better part of two and half years studying every aspect of Hawaii's correctional system, and the only program that stood out as model of excellence was the YWCA's Fernhurst Work Furlough Program—Ka Hale Ho'ala Hou No Na Wahine— The Home of Reawakening for Women.

Fernhurst operates from a gender-responsive, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive framework that emphasizes safety, trustworthiness, transparency, peer support, collaboration, and empowerment. Its setting on a quiet street in lower Makiki supports post-traumatic healing, and the program encourages healthy family relationships, including in-person family visits that seek to minimize the negative impact of having a family member incarcerated.

Fernhurst helps women address the pathways that led them to prison and provides the support they need to forge a new path and successfully reenter the community. It is structured to promote stability and consistency and has clearly defined expectations for staff and participants. The staff are dedicated and skilled and see themselves as partners in the women's journey.

The data on Fernhurst is impressive and could only be achieved by a program that is conceptually sound and competently implemented. In the past five years Fernhurst has served almost 200 women, and has a nearly 80 percent successful completion rate. Of those who completed the program between 2015 and the first quarter of 2019 the recidivism rate was **16 percent** compared to the 46.3 percent recidivism rate for female parolees. *See* Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions, 2017 Recidivism Update, p. 17 Figure 18 (July 2018). <https://icis.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Hawaii-Revidivism-2017.pdf/>

Fernhurst is the one bright star in the Hawaii's correctional firmament. It a model program that should be replicated on every island. I strongly urge you to pass SB2523 SD1 HD1 Proposed HD 2.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.