



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 2:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

by

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 603, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Corrections.

Purpose: Requires report to Legislature on solitary confinement in Hawaii and Arizona correctional facilities that house Hawaii inmates. Requires Department of Public Safety to expand the environmental impact statement process for potential sites for the Oahu Community Correctional Center relocation and submit a report to Legislature.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 603, S.D.1, H.D. 1, and respectfully offers the following comments as to Section 2.

The Department of Public Safety and the Judiciary, among others, are currently collaborating on the Correctional Justice Task Force (Task Force) created by HCR 85 (2016) and the corrections population management commission about the capacity and design of the new correctional facility. The Task Force has created a design subcommittee that is working with the University of Hawaii, School of Architecture to develop recommendations based on best practices.

On February 23, 2017, the Task Force provided a briefing on its work to date to the joint House Public Safety Committee and Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs. The interim report of the Task Force may be viewed at:



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<http://www.courts.state.hi.us/house-concurrent-resolution-85>.

The Task Force will provide recommendations in its final report on how the State can significantly reduce its jail population and ensure that the new jail does not replicate the conceptual and operational problems at Oahu Community Correctional Center. With the understanding that the Department of Public Safety has begun planning for a new facility, it would be desirable to continue the collaboration with the task force to ensure that future changes in programs can be integrated in planning of a new facility.

Regarding changes in the criminal justice system with the possible expansion of Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) and other probation programs, the Judiciary will need the support of resources for possible expansion of programs under the Adult Client Services Branch. The Judiciary's concern regarding any additional funding is that it be in addition to our requested biennium budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.