



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 11:00 AM - Agenda #1
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

by

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Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 589, House Draft 1 Relating to the Judiciary.

Purpose: Appropriates funds to the Judiciary to retain mental health services and substance abuse treatment for the Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement program, which is an intensive supervisory program for persons on probation. (HB589 HD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports House Bill 589, House Draft 1, which provides an appropriation for mental health counseling and drug dependence treatment for homeless participants in the judiciary's HOPE program. The appropriation will serve to augment opportunities for improved impact upon offender outcomes.

HOPE Probation was created by Judge Steven S. Alm in the First Circuit in 2004, and is a probationer-centered, collaborative strategy among the judge, probation, defense, prosecution, corrections, law enforcement, and treatment providers to effect positive behavioral changes in probationers. The HOPE strategy targets higher risk/higher needs probationers by using swift, certain, consistent, and proportionate jail sanctions for noncompliance with probation conditions to hold offenders accountable while the probation officer and the judge both maintain a working alliance with the probationer. Within the framework of evidence-based principles for effective interventions, HOPE assists probationers in the change process in a caring and supportive environment to help probationers succeed in probation and in life.

Research on HOPE had shown startling results in a gold standard, randomized control trial in 2009, and continues to show positive results seven years later. The 2009 study showed that HOPE probationers, when compared to those on regular probation, were 55% less likely to be



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arrested for a new crime, 72% less likely to use drugs, 61% less likely to miss appointments with their probation officer, and 53% less likely to have their probation revoked. As a result, they were sent to prison for 48% fewer days, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

A seven-year follow up study in 2016 of the same cohort group (most of whom were no longer on probation) showed that HOPE probationers had 22% fewer new charges filed against them (including a 55% reduction in new drug charges). HOPE probationers also continued to show more success in staying in the community as they were 50% less likely to be returned to prison (13% vs. 27%), at the cost of \$51,000 per year per inmate in Hawai'i.

HOPE's success has led to the growth of approximately 250 HOPE-like sites, nationwide. It is also supported by the Bureau of Justice Administration in the form of annual grant funds to implement HOPE. HOPE has also drawn international interest from Sweden, Canada, England, Australia, Japan, and Brazil.

There are approximately 2,300 offenders on HOPE in Honolulu currently, and, of those, 93 are considered high risk and homeless, and who present with substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders.

The Judiciary's only concern regarding any additional funding is that it does not come with a corresponding reduction to any amount already included in our base budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.