

2016 House Concurrent Resolution 85 (HCR85) Taskforce Minutes

Monday, June 20, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Supreme Court Conference Room

417 S. King Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Members Present

James Hirano, Warden of Maui Community Correctional Center, Department of Public Safety

Jeremy (Kama) Hopkins, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Keith Kaneshiro, Prosecutor, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu

Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind, Chair and Professor of Women's Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Bert Matsuoka, Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Department of Public Safety

Robert Merce, Vice President, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Sidney Nakamoto, Administrator, Adult Client Services Branch, Judiciary

Liesje Cattaneo, Adult Client Services Branch, Judiciary

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Senator, Hawaii State Legislature,

Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Representative, Hawaii State Legislature,

Chair of the House Committee on Public Safety

The Honorable Michael Wilson, Supreme Court Justice, HCR85 Taskforce Chair

Margaret Watson, University of Hawaii at Manoa student

Members Absent

Matthew Taufatele, LapFirst

Guests

The Honorable Mark Recktenwald, Chief Justice

I. Call to Order

Justice Wilson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Chief Justice Recktenwald provided opening remarks.

II. Introductions

Taskforce members introduced themselves and provided professional background.



III. Taskforce Appointments Pending

No pending appointments.

IV. Goals of Taskforce

Studying effective incarceration policies in Hawaii and other jurisdictions, and suggesting improvements for Hawaii's correctional system, including recommendations for designs of future correctional facilities.

Identifying and analyzing effective incarceration policies used in other states and countries and their related costs to develop and recommend methods and strategies that may be employed by Hawaii to improve its correctional system.

Member Takayama suggested the taskforce consider alternatives to incarceration that could be community-based and adopted from other jurisdictions. He also suggested exploring traditional, rehabilitative methods used by the native Hawaiian community.

Member Nishihara suggested the taskforce consider evaluating trends in incarceration policies, finding solutions to divert individuals away from prison, and identifying precursors, sociological factors, cultural differences, and other factors that lead individuals to incarceration.

V. Tentative Timetable

The task force, with the assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to submit a preliminary report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017 and final report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018.

VI. Subcommittees

Justice Wilson outlined the preliminary scope of four subcommittees (Native Hawaiian, Faith, Academic, and Design) and appointed members to the subcommittees.

- The Native Hawaiian subcommittee assists the taskforce by highlighting correctional-related issues within the Hawaiian community, organizing the Hawaiian community, gathering information, and providing assistance in relevant issues. (Members Hopkins, Merce, and Yoshimoto appointed to the Hawaiian subcommittee).

- The Faith subcommittee assists the taskforce by addressing correctional-related issues within the faith community, evaluating faith-based efforts in correctional facilities, and providing assistance in relevant issues. (No appointees).
- The Academic subcommittee assists the taskforce by providing research and analysis, evaluating best practices and policies, and providing academic assistance to improve Hawaii's correctional system. (Member Chesney-Lind appointed to the Academic subcommittee).
- The Design subcommittee assists the taskforce by providing information and recommendations for designs for future correctional facilities. (Member Merce appointed to the Design subcommittee).

Member Watson suggested the task force evaluate in-facility educational and job-skills programs for inmates and that correctional facilities strive to encourage inmates to participate in these programs so they may succeed upon reentry into society.

Member Kaneshiro suggested the taskforce consider an in-house programming subcommittee that may focus on such areas as drug treatment and rehabilitation, education, and job skills. He also suggested the task force collaborate with labor unions as these organizations can recruit, train, and provide job skills to former inmates, and the unions can also assist stakeholders in the planning, designing, and building of correctional facilities.

Members Hopkins and Matsuoka emphasized the importance of partnering with employers to provide job opportunities to former inmates who will eventually join the neighborhood community.

Member Nakamoto informed the taskforce that a State-sponsored project that strives to help offenders prepare for reentry and stay disciplined is underway. The project is a collaborative effort with the University of Hawaii and examines vocational preparation, case management, and treatment plans for offenders.

VII. Public Testimony

Joseph Laurer, Office of Youth Services, suggested a subcommittee on youth corrections.

Joe Tassill, Holomua Puuhonua, suggested a subcommittee that focused on the healing and rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals.

Kat Brady, Community Alliance on Prisons, suggested:

- Urging the Academic subcommittee to look into federal Pell Grants to help former inmates fund their education;
- Establishing a subcommittee for alternatives to incarceration and allowing the public to participate on subcommittees;
- Urging the proposed in-house programming subcommittee to submit a plan with specific criteria rather than submitting a list of programs; and
- Urging the taskforce to look into a federal program that provides incentives to employers to hire formerly incarcerated people.

Stephen Morse, social worker, suggested a subcommittee that focused on the incarceration of parents and the effects on their children and families.

Sophie Gralapp, Research and Evaluation in Public Safety, proposed a subcommittee with family members of incarcerated individuals that would address community feelings and opinions toward incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. Justice Wilson suggested her proposal could be included in the Faith subcommittee.

VIII. Next Meeting

July 19, 2016, Hawaii State Capitol, 3 p.m., room to be announced

IX. Adjourn

Justice Wilson adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.