

HCR 85 Correctional Task Force Minutes

Monday, July 16, 2018, 2 p.m.

Hawai'i Supreme Court Conference Room

417 South King Street

Honolulu, HI 96797

Members Present:

The Honorable Michael Wilson, Supreme Court Justice, HCR 85 Task Force Chair

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Hawai'i State Legislature, Chair of the Senate
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Mike Town, Chair of the Faith Subcommittee, on behalf of Fred Hyun
of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Department of Public Safety

Lōpaka Baptiste, representing Colette Machado, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Office
of Hawaiian Affairs

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

Robert Merce, Vice President, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Matthew Taufetee, founder of First L.A.P. (Life After Prison)

I. Call to order

Justice Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. Introduction and opening remarks

Justice Wilson stated that the task force continues to move towards the phase of implementation, e.g., looking forward to working with the legislature to put bills together for next session, and also continuing to reflect on the important question of what kinds of treatment programs will best contribute to a humane and effective correctional system in

Hawai'i. Justice Wilson stated that the bulk of the meeting would be occupied by a presentation by Bree Derrick, Program Director of state initiatives for the Justice Center of the Council on State Governments. Ms. Derrick is a nationally and internationally recognized expert on topics that are directly relevant to the task force's mission and efforts.

As background for Ms. Derrick's presentation, Justice Wilson noted that Hawaii's correctional system is currently in a "golden alignment" in which all the various stakeholders, including state agencies and various communities, especially the Native Hawaiian community, recognize that we need to be in a transition from a correctional justice system that is essentially a trauma machine to one characterized by best practices regarding rehabilitation and treatment programs. Also as background, Senator Nishihara described the circumstances under which he met Ms. Derrick at a conference in Washington DC in November, 2018, titled the "50 State Summit on Public Safety" and invited her to speak to the task force. The Council on State Governments maintains an impressive array of correctional data for all fifty states and brings a tremendous amount of expertise to the table, as well as valuable resources. Senator Nishihara stated that Hawai'i wants to partner with CSG and vice versa. Finally by way of background, Bob Merce gave further background on the CSG's initiatives, described Ms. Derrick's particular experience and expertise, and indicated how they have been working closely on the issues relating to the reform of Hawaii's correctional system. Bob Merce also briefly described the CSG's "justice reinvestment approach," which is a data-driven approach to public safety. Its goal is to reduce the correctional population and make more efficient use of funds relating to public safety.

III. Presentation by Bree Derrick, LMHC

Ms. Derrick prefaced her presentation with a fuller description of the "50 State Summit on Public Safety" held last November. The goal was to bring together interdisciplinary teams representing law enforcement, legislators, behavioral health, and corrections in the same room to talk about contemporary correctional issues in all fifty states. One of the

results of that summit is a “workbook” for each state with statistics on crime, arrests, recidivism, correctional populations, and other criminal justice system metrics. The workbooks for Hawai‘i and the other states may be found at

<https://50statespublicsafety.us/>

Ms. Derrick gave an extensive powerpoint presentation centered on the topics of (1) exploring the challenges facing Hawaii’s criminal justice system, (2), dealing effectively with people who have behavioral health concerns, and (3) sharing examples and success stories from other states.

Ms. Derrick’s powerpoint presentation may be found in full here:

<http://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Bree-Derrick-powerpoint-presented-on-July-16-2018-HRC-85-meeting.pdf> Discussion and questions followed

Ms. Derrick’s presentation.

Following discussion and questions, Bob Merce moved that the task force promote and endorse the “justice reinvestment” approach taken by the Council on State Governments, and that Bob be authorized to work with Ms. Derrick to work up written materials regarding that approach to provide to the governor, the legislature, and the chief justice. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried without opposition.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the HCR task force meeting on May 9, 2018, were approved.