



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 22, 2023 at 3:17 p.m.

By
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Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health
and
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HB 1131 HD1 – RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR
INCARCERATED WOMEN

Chairs Wakai and Kim, Vice Chairs Elefante and Kidani, and Members of the
Committees:

The University of Hawai'i thanks you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1131 HD1, which requires a comparative study of all programming offered to persons incarcerated at correctional facilities in the State for the purpose of identifying gaps in programming offered to female inmates.

The vision of the UH Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health is achieving social justice and health equity for the people of Hawai'i and citizens in a changing world. This work is aligned with our vision and our faculty would welcome the opportunity to gather information which would enhance pathways toward gender parity in programs for incarcerated women. The University of Hawai'i believe that Senate Bill 711 SD2 HD1 provides the appropriate mechanism to achieve the intent in this measure, as such, we encourage the committees to defer HB 1131 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.