



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

By

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SB 2640 SD1 – RELATING TO INCARCERATED WOMEN

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2640 SD1, relating to the appropriation of funds for the second year of a program to train incarcerated women to be general education development tutors for their peers, provide college correspondence courses for women in the women's community correctional center, and provide reentry and transition services for women wanting to continue their education post incarceration.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 2640 SD1 and upholds the value of the current program but defers to the Department of Public Safety. This bill appropriates additional funds for the Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice to support their efforts to continue to provide for the second year of their education program for imprisoned women.

The UH supports the program and its intent. Windward Community College (Windward CC) has taken the primary lead on this initiative and is partnering with Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice in this educational effort. Once these women have completed their GED, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice has helped facilitate planning for Windward CC to partner with University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Social Sciences to support students in their transition to the baccalaureate degree program.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 2640 SD1.