

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
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CHAIR

DANE K. ODA
MEMBER

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MEMBER

MAX OTANI
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS 252/221
REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO EXAMINE THE
RATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT OF HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Albert Tufono, Chair

Committee on Public Safety
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
State Capital, Conference Room 309

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) questions the purpose of this resolution. It has been the practice of HPA to release our annual report to the legislature prior to the start of the legislative session. Within the report, information regarding the parole board's activity for the year and statistical comparisons from previous years are provided. This annual report is available to the public and HPA has attempted to maintain transparency in their decision-making.

Hawaii's indeterminate sentencing model is also a discretionary parole model. The Urban Institute report entitled "Does Parole Supervision Work?" of Spring 2006, indicated that their research revealed discretionary parolees were rearrested at a lower rate than their mandatory parole and unconditionally released counterparts. The Urban Institute report emphasized the importance of supervision strategies, focusing in on aligning supervision resources with risk; emphasis on both

surveillance and treatment; swift and consistent responses for failures; and range of incentives for success. Since 2002, HPA has been an active member of the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) and has adopted and utilized evidence based practices. All parole officers have been trained in the use of the Level of Service Inventory Revised assessment tool, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavior change and case planning. HPA has adopted practices of risk principle, immediate attention to violations and contingency management.

In a recidivism study that was released by ICIS in January 2009, HPA rearrest rates have been on a decline. An 18% decline in recidivism was reported when the study compared cohort groups from 1999 and 2005. While the eventual goal of ICIS is a reduction of 30%, the study has shown HPA is making significant progress.

During fiscal year 2008, HPA conducted over 3000 minimum, parole and revocation hearing, in addition to making over 400 decisions during administrative sessions. It is common to have 15 to 20 cases per day on the parole board's agenda. This is an extreme workload considering the parole board consists of one full time member and two part-time members that cannot exceed 128 work hours per month.

Members are required to review case material before the hearing and will spend hours preparing for upcoming hearings. HPA has sought several times to obtain a full-time board but was unsuccessful in getting legislative support.

HPA would not oppose an examination by the State Auditor, but questions it's purpose and use of resources in this financial challenging times. We thank you for this opportunity to testify.