

CORRECTED TESTIMONY

Committee: Senate Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Hearing Time: 3:00 p.m., February 6, 2023

Location: State Capitol

Re: SB 1470, Relating to Corrections

Aloha e Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **support** of SB 1470, Relating to Corrections.

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to install digital cameras in all guard control rooms at the women's community correctional center and requires guards to wear body cameras while on duty. It also appropriates funds for the purposes of effectuating the requirements of this bill.

Our collective, the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi (OYAH), works to support young people under age 25 who are disconnected from school and work, referred to as “opportunity youth.” This developmental time period is extremely consequential to the individual growth and overall life chances of our children. Although this measure specifically pertains to the women’s community correctional center, we also support the legislature’s ongoing efforts to broadly address the needs of individuals who are incarcerated.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB 1470.**