



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

By  
Interim Dean Tetine Sentell  
Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health  
And  
Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1131 HD1 – RELATING TO GENDER PARITY IN PROGRAMS FOR  
INCARCERATED WOMEN

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitigawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent on HB 1131 HD1, which requires the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health to conduct 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 & 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.

We appreciate the appropriation of funds to support this important work, provided that the passage of HB 1311 HD1, does not impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.