

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 7, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2082

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2082, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Safety."

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a plan by January 1, 2009 to ensure that female inmates returning to Hawaii from the mainland have adequate housing, community supervision, medical care, drug treatment, reintegration programs, employment training, and transitional services. A total of \$100,000 is appropriated out of the State general funds for the planning required.

The goal of this bill to safely and effectively allow for the return of female inmates to Hawaii is laudable. I support an effort to plan for the eventual return of female prisoners to Hawaii who wish to return to this state to complete the terms of their sentences.

The Department of Public Safety understands that rehabilitative and educational programs are vital for all inmates reintegrating into society. Current out-of-state correctional centers offer those programs and a host of other services to Hawaii's female inmates, as do certain in-state programs that provide transitional accommodations for incarcerated women.

However, because a program to return all female inmates from the mainland cannot realistically be implemented without an expansion of correctional facilities and services costing hundreds of millions of dollars, it is unlikely this effort can

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take place within the time horizons contemplated by the supporters of this bill.

This bill appropriates \$100,000 in State general fund monies for fiscal year 2008-2009 to develop the plan. As this appropriation was not included in the State's financial plan, and is outside of the approved biennium budget, I am issuing a line-item veto.

Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution provides that, "[e]xcept for items appropriated to be expended by the judicial and legislative branches, the governor may veto any specific item or items in any bill which appropriates money for specific purposes by striking out or reducing the same."

Therefore, pursuant to my line item veto authority, I have stricken out the \$100,000 appropriation from section 3 at line 2 on page 3 of the bill by drawing a line through the \$100,000 appropriation out of the general fund for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the Department of Public Safety and changing the amount to \$0.

Given the fiscal constraints faced by the State, our limited resources must be utilized to support existing programs that have an immediate impact and positive results for female prisoners.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2082 with the appropriation for fiscal year 2008-2009 stricken out and reduced to \$0.

Respectfully,



LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii