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TO: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2030, Relating to Corrections
Hearing: Wednesday, January 28, 2026; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) **supports** Senate Bill 2030, Relating to Corrections, which appropriates funds to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for purchasing body cameras for adult correctional officers to wear while on duty at state correctional facilities.

While body-worn cameras (BWC) are most associated with policing, corrections-specific research increasingly shows similar and, in some cases, stronger benefits in jail and prison environments. A National Institute of Justice (NIJ)-supported study¹ found that deployment of BWCs in a jail was associated with statistically significant reductions in response-to-resistance incidents and injuries of incarcerated individuals. The findings suggest that body-worn cameras can help de-escalate encounters, improve officer decision-making, and reduce physical confrontations in correctional facilities.

Importantly, body-worn cameras protect correctional officers as much as they protect incarcerated individuals. Video evidence can quickly resolve complaints, discourage false allegations, and provide officers with confidence that their professionalism will be documented. At the same time, cameras strengthen accountability by ensuring that when misconduct does occur, it is addressed promptly and fairly. Protection and accountability are critical to maintaining morale among staff while also reinforcing public trust in the correctional system.

¹ [Deploying Body-Worn Cameras in a Jail Setting: Impacts and Lessons Learned](#) American Jails Magazine / Office of Justice Programs, Apr. 1 2024), first known randomized controlled trial of body-worn cameras in a correctional jail setting showing statistically significant reductions in response-to-resistance incidents and resident injuries.

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Additionally, clear video evidence can reduce litigation costs and settlement expenses, shorten and streamline internal and external investigations, and improve training by using real footage to reinforce best practices. Over time, these efficiencies could offset the initial investment while improving outcomes across the system.

Body-worn cameras in correctional facilities improve safety, transparency, and accountability. Funding this initiative will help modernize our correctional system, protect staff, safeguard incarcerated individuals, and reinforce public confidence in state institutions.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-849-3580 or at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.