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STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

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

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2862, Relating to Gubernatorial Appointments
Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) submits testimony in **opposition** of Senate Bill 2862, relating to Gubernatorial Appointments, which requires any person appointed by the Governor to serve in the Executive Branch in a position that is not subject to the civil service law to obtain the advice and consent of the Senate if that person's salary is greater than \$160,000 and is not paid from the budget of the Office of the Governor.

The Legislature established the HCSOC to serve as an independent oversight body responsible for ensuring transparency, accountability, and lawful operation within Hawai'i's correctional system. The effectiveness and credibility of the Commission depend fundamentally on its institutional independence, particularly from political influence. Any measure that constrains independence threatens to weaken oversight, reduce transparency, and limit the Commission's ability to protect incarcerated individuals, staff, and the public.

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.