

To: Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission

From: Jacquie Esser

Date: November 19, 2020 board meeting

Re: Public testimony on agenda items

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I am writing the commission to provide public testimony in support of pre-trial reform and in full support of the recommendations made in the HCR 85 Task Force final report.

We must come together as a community and stop the construction of the oversized, fancy new jail that will only serve to provide more beds and incarcerate more people who our poor, mentally ill and those suffering with substance use disorder instead of providing meaningful treatment in the community.

We must not move forward with any construction of a new jail until we have embraced and enacted meaningful bail reform, expanded pre-charge diversion programs like LEAD, decriminalized or at a minimum defelonized drug possession and expanded community-based treatment programs and services.

We must work together as a community to show that mass incarceration is not our community's destiny.