



# CLEMENCY

We must transform clemency from a case-by-case extension of individual mercy done when political pressure is low to an essential, broad systemic response that is integral to political viability. To do this, we must focus on elevating and centering the stories of impacted families and further humanizing the tragedy of mass incarceration.

- We currently spend \$1.9 billion on our state's prisons. Reducing prison populations through categorical clemency can help reveal or create opportunities to reduce this enormous expense, which can then be reinvested in the social service and reentry programs needed to reduce recidivism, and support transformative justice.
- We often forget the impact of our prison system on children. There are plenty of parents who have learned from their mistakes and will serve their communities better by returning home to their families than by languishing in prisons at taxpayer expense.
- There are 2.3 million people incarcerated in the U.S., 1.3 million of whom are incarcerated in state prisons. Hundreds of thousands of people are trapped by extraordinarily long and punitive sentences that were never warranted in the first place.
- Social science clearly tells us that people age out of crime. As a State that values our elders, we have an obligation to care for our kūpuna.

**57%**

of surveyed voters in Hawai'i support the governor using clemency powers to reduce prison populations

**68%**

of voters in the United States support clemency

**61%**

of voters said they were more likely to vote for candidates who support clemency

“ Clemency alone won't solve all the problems of the criminal justice system. But granting people relief from extreme sentences — if they are provided the support to re-enter society as I was — can help make amends for a punitive culture.”

— Jason Hernandez, Obama Clemency Recipient.

To learn more, visit: [www.acluhi.org](http://www.acluhi.org)  
[action@acluhawaii.org](mailto:action@acluhawaii.org)