

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair**  
**Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2008**  
**Room 309 at 8:45 am**

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT: HB 3426 RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING**

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carrie Ann Shirota, and I strongly support HB 3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring. My experiences as a former Public Defender and Civil Rights Enforcement Attorney, and current staff member of a reentry program on Maui have shaped my advocacy efforts to promote accountability and transparency within our correctional system, and improving how individuals are prepared in prison for successful transition into the community.

I support HB 3426 for the following reasons:

- Recent meta-analysis of cognitive behavioral treatment for offenders by Landenberger & Lipsey (2005) reviewed 58 studies and found that on average Cognitive Based behavioral treatment for offenders reduced recidivism by 25%, but the most effective configurations found more than 50% reductions.
- Cognitive behavioral theory is the new wave in corrections because it can be done in any setting; existing staff can be trained on CBT, it is relatively inexpensive to deliver, and there are a wide range of curriculums are available. See Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D., Center for Criminal Justice Research, What Works and What Doesn't in Reducing Recidivism: The Principles of Effective Intervention.
- Although I am unaware of meta-analysis studies of culturally based programs, I have observed firsthand men and women participating in MEO's BEST Reintegration Program make positive changes and transform their lives as a result of participating in culturally based training. As more culturally based programs are implemented in correctional settings, meta-analysis studies will be conducted to evaluate their effectiveness.
- In light of the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiian in our youth and adult prisons, it is imperative that we provide Native Hawaiian holistic interventions that share traditional knowledge, values and skills that will assist individuals to reunite with their `ohana and successfully transition back into the community.

**Suggested Amendment**

I recommend that this Committee clarify that the Department of Public Safety is simply the pass-through agency for the appropriation. The Department of Public Safety should not define nor create culturally based cognitive restructuring training because they do not have the expertise nor knowledge of Native Hawaiian culture and holistic interventions.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 3426 that will provide an appropriation for culturally based cognitive restructuring programs in corrections.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.  
Kahului, Hawai'i  
(808) 269-3858

**To: The Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Rep. Awana, Evans, and Har**

**Re: HB3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring**

**Date: 2/7/08 at 8:45 am**

Aloha Representatives and Committee Members,

My name is Patricia Hii Heffernan Campbell and I am writing in regards to the support of HB 3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring. Graduating with my MSW from the University of Hawaii and being in the field of social work, it is very clear and apparent the issues that our incarcerated brothers and sisters have many issues that they face with themselves, family, and the communities that they live in. Additionally, it is also apparent that our Native Hawaiian incarcerated brothers and sisters are amongst the highest population that comprise our current prison systems. Because of this and for the concern that I have for my people and others who are in there, I am in strong support for HB 3426.

I feel the Cognitive Restructuring interventions that are culturally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and holistic in nature will be extremely beneficial to provide particularly Native Hawaiians who are in the prisons with the wisdom, knowledge, strength, and the tools necessary for them to reintegrate back into the community so they are productive members of society and within their families.

I have experienced and seen how culturally based programs have made a positive impact to men and women in the prisons systems and how much they truly want it.

Again I strongly support HB 3426 and urge you to appropriate the funds necessary to help our people who need our help.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Aloha,  
Patricia Hii Heffernan Campbell, MSW  
808-258-6315

**To: The Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**  
**Re: HB3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring**  
**Date: 2/7/08 at 8:45 am**

Aloha and Kiora,

My name is Nathan Campbell and I support HB 3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring. I feel that cultural programs in our prisons systems will help to reduce recidivism and help our Native Hawaiians as they return back to their families and the communities that they live in.

I have seen and witness firsthand of what cultural programs have done and the positive impact it has made to those whom are in our prisons. When they know who they are and where they come from, they are better able to accept themselves and learn the responsibilities given to them to transition back in the community. I feel that Cognitive Restructuring interventions when done correctly and culturally will be beneficial.

I strongly support HB 3426 and hope that you will too.

Thank you,

Nathan Eldon Campbell  
808-371-3719

**To: The Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**  
**Re: HB3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring**  
**Date: 2/7/08 at 8:45 am**

Hi! I am Mamoe Manumaleuna and I support HB 3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring. I am currently a corrections officer at Halawa and strongly feel that cultural interventions are desperately needed in our prisons.

It is sad how many inmates go back and forth within our prison system and feel that they could benefit from cultural programs that can help them address their issues and help them to make those choices so they do not re-offend and be successful.

I strongly support this bill and hope we can make a change..

Respectfully,  
Mamoe Manumaluena.

To whom it May Concern,

Feb.7, 2008

I am writing in support of HB 3426 being introduced by Representative Karen Awana during this legislative session.

As a former corrections officer, native Hawaiian parent and grandparent, and athletic coach, I am very concerned with helping to improve the conditions of our native Hawaiian people. It saddens me that there is an abnormally high number of native Hawaiians who are in our prison system, and return once they are released.

I believe that it is important that we help legislation to ensure that we address this problem. This bill is a necessary to help our inmates. I believe that native Hawaiian inmates deserve to have cultural interventions, especially as they prepare to reintegrate into their communities. This legislation will provide native Hawaiian inmates with indigenous programs that they can relate to and that are designed to address the core problems that got them there in the first place. For too many years we have tried to address their needs with Western programs that are not too good. It is time to make a difference and attack the problem using common sense cultural programs. And as you reduce the rate of inmates coming in and out, you not only help to rehabilitate the native Hawaiian inmates, but you will be saving the State of Hawaii choke money too.

I have worked in the system and know that it is time to try something different. I know that if you choose to support this bill, you will be making the right choice.

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas P. Heffernan

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 3426  
RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING**

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs  
Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 7, 2008, 8:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Evans and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety supports the overall intent of House Bill 3426.

The Department recognizes the intent of House Bill 3426 to provide funding for a correctional program that combines Native Hawaiian holistic intervention practices with cognitive behavioral theories to assist inmates with their successful transition into the community. Evidence-based correctional programs that provide offenders with the assistance of restructuring destructive thought processes and developing cognitive skills to make responsible decisions, are the core of the Department's efforts in addressing a reduction in recidivism.

The Department considers the overall intent of House Bill 3426 to be in line with its efforts in transitional programming and supports its passage provided that it does not replace, or adversely impact, the priorities as indicated in our Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SUPPORT TESTIMONY: HB 3426 RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING**

Aloha Rep. Cindy Evans; Chair, Rep. Sharon Har; Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debbie Neuman and I strongly support HB 3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring. As a native Hawaiian, who has worked for nearly twenty years in the field of education and in my community, I know that in order to reach someone, you need to know where they came from before you can help them. Being an educator, volunteer coordinator of Habitat Leeward, outrigger paddling coach, and director of educational programs in the homeless shelter in Waianae, Pai'olu Kaiaulu, parent and grandparent has given me a clear understanding of how important it is to address the needs of people by taking a look at who they are and what their individual needs are. I believe that our incarcerated brothers and sisters deserve to be treated with respect and optimism in helping them on their route to recovery. It is their inalienable right to be provided the interventions that are most likely to succeed.

*"We recognize the diversity of individuals and their contributions and we strive to treat all people—offenders, staff, and the public—with utmost dignity and understanding." Clayton Frank, Director of Public Safety*

First, I support this bill because it is in line with the intentions of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and will provide them with the funding and legal ability to provide culturally appropriate cognitive restructuring programs to the largest population of inmates, namely those that are native Hawaiian.

It is clear that our prison system is under duress because of the large numbers of inmates and the lack of space at current facilities. As a result, our tax payer dollars are being sent to private, out of state facilities, to house Hawaii prisoners. Not only do we end up spending more money, but our inmates (and their families) suffer. Looking at the big picture, it makes sense to target the largest group, in an effort to better utilize resources and induce change and overall improvement. By reducing the largest numbers, we will reduce the overall numbers exponentially.

*"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." Albert Einstein*

Secondly, this bill is important because it is the first step in improving the interventions that are accepted as part of a sentencing plan for Hawaii inmates. If DPS is forced to continue to address the problem as they have in the past, the results undoubtedly will be the same. This will be the first step towards honoring the "inalienable rights" of all individuals by respecting the diversity of different cultures and providing specific, culturally appropriate interventions.

Currently, inmates are required to participate in a variety of western based interventions and personal development courses to address issues like anger, violence, addictions, and substance abuse as part of their sentencing plan. For native Hawaiians, these are merely symptoms of a larger problem caused by colonization and a loss of cultural identity. "The colonization of Hawai'i and efforts to ensure the "assimilation" of its native people into the Western ways of life resulted in historical suppression and erosion of Native Hawaiian cultural practices. The loss of traditional ways uprooted ancestral ties and cultural sources of Native Hawaiian identity." (Ka Huaka'i, 2005, p.72) This bill would allow DPS to provide interventions that address the core causes, rather than the symptoms. It would allow cultural based interventions that combine cognitive restructuring to become part of the sentencing plan. In the bigger

picture, it moves the DPS in the direction of providing interventions for their clientele based on their needs, rather than the generic needs of textbook inmates. This is a research based process that will definitely improve the success of the interventions, thus reducing the high recurring rates of recidivism among the indigenous inmate population.

In closing, there is a mistaken belief that social science and indigenous knowledge will always exist in opposition to each other. Clearly the aims and objectives of a more clinical approach can be integrated to achieve outcomes that are commonly sought by both approaches.

Indigenous knowledge represents a tremendous resource of problem solving and empowerment, in this respect, it cannot be achieved without direct reference to the existence of a spiritually based intervention or program. To suggest the application of indigenous knowledge without reference to the spirit is the equivalent of claiming that a canoe is ready for the journey without any paddles or crew. I believe that should this legislation pass, we will be well on our way to empowerment and healing.

Mahalo!  
Debbie Neuman  
277-7931





the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
of hawaii

February 7, 2008

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To: Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: HB3426 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring  
Hearing: February 7, 2008, 8:45 a.m., Room 309

Position: Support with amendment

Good morning Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii supports funding reintegration programs that help offenders rebuild their lives.

However, we suggest that this measure include a provision requiring that the Department of Public Safety issue a "Request for Proposals" to contract out these services and that the department considers community support as part of the selection criteria.

Cognitive restructuring and cultural interventions are effective in helping people successfully re-enter their communities and thereby reduce recidivism rates.

We encourage the establishment of a variety of evidence-based treatment programs as our public safety system should not take a one-size-fits-all approach to treatment and rehabilitation.

We urge this committee to pass this bill with a recommendation for full funding.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Legislative Testimony

**HB 3426 RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING**  
House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

February 7, 2008  
Room 309

8:45 P.M.

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Aloha Chairperson Evans and members of the committee. I am Oswald "Oz" Stender, Trustee At-Large to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs strongly supports HB 3462. Our interest in this legislation is primarily based on our concern that approximately 45% of men, women, and juvenile offenders incarcerated in both in-state and out-of-state correctional facilities are Native Hawaiian.

OHA believes it is critical that we address the core problems rampant in our prison system with regards to the disproportionately large number of Native Hawaiians in prison. It is incumbent on OHA and other Hawaiians to help them cope with their situation and prepare themselves for release.

OHA supports the need for more programs, whether they are treatment type, job training and placement, or affordable housing to help ease reintegration and prevent recidivism for both men and women offenders.

OHA is particularly supportive of programs that incorporate Native Hawaiian cultural components as a way to help Native Hawaiian offenders heal and build self esteem, factors that contribute significantly to their successful reintegration into the community. For years, research has established that indigenous people fare better and are more successful when presented with culturally appropriate interventions.

We support HB 3426 because it proposes a unique approach to addressing behavioral modification among our pa`ahao, blending traditional Native Hawaiian holistic interventions with western cognitive behavioral theory.

Our Hawaiian kupuna were masters at taking the best of the old and the best of the New, and in the process, created new, vibrant ideas and approaches to overcoming life's challenges that were totally relevant to their time. Cognitive restructuring, as it is proposed in the bill, appears to be a creative program in this mold.

This legislation will enable the Department of Public Safety to incorporate modern behavioral theory with indigenous strategies and interventions that have proven records of success. Although the major focus of this legislation is to encourage personal healing, particularly of indigenous inmates, the resulting behavioral changes will have a positive long-term effect on public safety and the cost of insuring that safety in our community.

We urge your support for its passage.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony and for the time and effort you spend to help us improve the quality of life in our community and for Hawaiians in particular.