

LINDA LINGLE
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 136/HR117
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TO ESTABLISH AN INMATE CONSERVATION CORPS PILOT
PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

by

Clayton A Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources
and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 20, 2008, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Evans, Representative Har, Representative Ito, Representative
Karamatsu, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (Department) supports the intent of House
Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 136/House Resolution (HR) 117. The Department
already engages in conservation programs at the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF)
and the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). There is also a partnership,
the Olaa-Kilauea Partnership, among the Federal Government, Department of Land
and Natural Resources (DLNR), and KCF to preserve endangered species of fauna
and wildlife. As an example, inmates help preserve these rare and endangered

species of wildlife and fauna by constructing enclosures to prevent feral pigs and other destructive animals from getting to them. By participating in these projects, inmates were given classes to learn about the native plants, invasive species, wildlife management, and the value of conservation programs.

Additionally, OCCC inmates participate with DLNR to maintain and create new hiking trails in our mountains. These projects help inmates learn about controlling invasive plant species, restoring our natural fauna and native plants, and assist in conservation of our land.

Although supportive of the intent, the Department should have the flexibility to determine the best location for a pilot project based on availability of personnel and inmate participants, as well as security requirements and concerns for public safety. Because the Department is tasked to provide the supervision for this program, consideration for additional staffing and funds would be required. Furthermore, the reporting requirements are additional tasks not being performed and, therefore, will also require additional staffing and funds. As such, the Department would like to note that the additional resources needed for a pilot program would negatively impact the priorities that already exist in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

The Department supports the intent of HCR 136/HR 117 and will continue to work cooperatively with DLNR on the above mentioned activities. However, the Department will defer to DLNR regarding possible impacts to their programs and resources as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 136/HR 117.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 20, 2008
10:30 AM
Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT HCR 136/HR 117 – CONSERVATION CORPS

Aloha Chairs Evans and Ito and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on prison reform and criminal justice issues in Hawai`i for a decade. I respectfully offer our testimony, always being mindful that Hawai`i has more than 6,000 people behind bars with more than 2,000 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their homes and their loved ones.

HCR 136/HR 117 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety to establish an inmate conservation corps pilot program on the island of Hawai`i.

Community Alliance on Prisons stands in strong support of this resolution. We know from experience that connecting people with the `aina is healing for both the land and the person. In our decade of work on criminal justice issues, we have found the majority of incarcerated individuals want to give back to the community.

Several years ago, we worked with another group and brought women from a work furlough program to a lo`i – wetland taro field. Many of the women were Kanaka Maoli and had never been in a lo`i before. It was really wonderful to watch them pull weeds to ready the lo`i for planting. The symbolism was not lost on these wahine.

We strongly assert that involving incarcerated people in community projects is a win-win situation for all. The proof is the entrance to Kailua, created and maintained by the women at WCCC, and a great community asset for all to enjoy.

We urge passage of this great resolution! Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

The state is responsible for the care of individuals entrusted to them. Lawmakers and the general public need to know what is going on in these prisons thousands of miles away. We are paying for a treatment-intensive prison, building exclusively for Hawai'i inmates in the Sonoran desert of AZ – but it is program intensive? Is SHIP (Special Housing Intensive Program) aka LOCKDOWN a program?

Hawai'i is paying for the safety of our women in Otter Creek, but Sarah Ah Mau died on December 31, 2005. Recently an employee of Otter Creek smuggled a loaded 22 into the prison and committed suicide in the warden's office. How did she get a loaded gun through security?

Another inmate was beaten to within an inch of his life when the cell doors in Tutwiler, MS 'mistakenly' opened in the administrative segregation unit.

A KY inmate died last August, when the department was questioned about this they replied, 'It wasn't our inmate'

It shouldn't take death or near death incidents for us to ask questions. If we demand accountability from our inmates, it is only right to demand the same from CCA!

Please pass HCR 214.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

CARRIE ANN SHIROTA, ESQ.
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Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Chair
Thursday, March 20, 2009
10:30am in Conference Room 309

SUPPORT: HCR 136/HR117 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH AN INMATE CONSERVATION CORPS PILOT PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

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

My name is Carrie Ann Shirota, and I am writing in support of HCR 136/HR 117. My experiences as a former Public Defender and Civil Rights Enforcement Attorney, current staff member of a reentry program on Maui and member of Community Alliance on Prisons have shaped my advocacy efforts to improve how incarcerated people are prepared for release as law-abiding, contributing members of their `ohana and community.

I strongly support programs such the proposed Conservation Corps program that provide opportunities for incarcerated men and women to work outdoors and “malama na `aina.” Breathing in the fresh air, digging your hands in the `ainal and planting seeds is therapeutic and healing – for it reinforces the message that just as plants grow with the proper nutrients and care, we too must nurture the positive seeds and influences within ourselves.

In addition to personal emotional and spiritual growth, participants would acquire valuable skills through hands on training that may lead to future employment opportunities.

Finally, this program would provide a valuable service to our community. “Giving back” to the community is a part of successful reintegration, and a great way of doing what is pono.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 136/HR 117.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**on House Concurrent Resolution 136 and House Resolution 117 – REQUESTING THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH AN INMATE CONSERVATION CORPS PILOT
PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

March 20, 2008

House Concurrent Resolution 136 and House Resolution 117 request the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish an inmate conservation corps pilot program on the Island of Hawaii. While the Department recognizes that inmates could benefit from programs that build life skills and a sense of responsibility and stewardship of the land, the Department nonetheless does not support these measures because it does not have the expertise to provide the life skills and basic education training and the inmate supervision that is called for in these resolutions, nor the fiscal and personnel resources that would be necessary to develop and carry out such a pilot program.

Establishing a pilot project that would develop and implement an inmate conservation corps program would require a full time coordinator and education staff to provide the life skills and education and training component of the program. The Department notes that life skills training, including instruction in conflict resolution, job search skills, personal money management, goal setting, and decision making, and education for twenty hours each week on subjects such as genealogy, Hawaiian language and traditional practices, reading, math, communication skills, English language proficiency, academic preparation, and work-specific skills as called for in these resolutions, are not currently part of the Youth Conservation Corp Program curriculum. In addition, correctional officers would be needed to oversee the work crews, and vans and equipment to transport inmate crews. Annual costs for this pilot program is estimated to be \$400,000.

The Department has been successful in working with DPS to provide work opportunities of a lesser extent than that is called for in these resolutions, for their inmates on the lands that the Department manages to both parties mutual benefit. The success of the Department's partnership with DPS is due in part to the separation of responsibilities between departments. The Department will continue ongoing collaboration with DPS as it is currently structured, and on an as needed basis.