

Tommie Suganuma

From: David "Kawika" [bigdsblues@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 10:51 PM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Sharon Har; Rep. Ken Ito; Rep. Jon Karamatsu
Subject: Testimony, PSM/WLH March 20, 10:30 am, HCR 136

Testimony re: HCR 136

There are many challenges facing incarcerated inmates in accessing opportunities to prepare to return to the community as a productive person. While there are some good programs available, I feel a collaborative relationship to address land challenges while providing the opportunity for real cultural and personal development makes total sense. This collaboration will better the land, better the person, would restore a sense of responsibility to the community, and build an appreciation for the returning inmate among community members.

This resolution applied appropriately can lower the recidivism rate and address many flooding, watershed, forest conservation and community beautification issues that now lack resources.

My name is David 'Kawika' Marquez. I have many years experience working in programs to assist persons to become self reliant, and have worked with many social challenged people including those returning to the community after incarceration. I've always felt that there is a relationship between the people and the land. I believe this resolution could effectively reverse the deterioration of the individual and instill solid values and reinforce a connection to the land and community.

I also currently serve as the Chair of the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council, however, my testimony is as an individual. This role, though, helps me see how much need this island has in terms of conservation. Most important to conserve are the young people of the island - our future.

Thank you.

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