



BY EMAIL: LMGtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Committee: Committee on Legislative Management

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, April 4, 2008, 2:55 p.m.

Place: Room 423

Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of HCR 214, HD1

Dear Chair Magaoay and Members of the Committee on Legislative Management:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of HCR 214, HD1, which requests the auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Public Safety, Mainland Branch and FDC Branch, on contract compliance of private prisons that house Hawaii inmates.

The ACLU of Hawaii has received dozens of complaints from inmates and their families about the treatment inmates receive at private prisons on the mainland and at the FDC Honolulu prison. Requesting that the auditor conduct a performance audit of the Department of Public Safety Mainland and FDC Branch will help to ensure that the inmates' legal rights, as well as their health and safety, are maintained by adding some level of accountability to the correctional system.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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## COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Rep. Michael Magaoay, Chair

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Friday, April 4, 2008

2:55 PM

Room 423

### Comments on HCR 214 – PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF PRIVATE PRISONS

Aloha Chair Magaoay, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee!

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 214 HD1 requests the auditor to conduct a performance audit of the department of public safety's mainland and FDC branch on contract compliance of private prisons that house Hawai`i inmates.

This resolution originally called for the legislative auditor to a conduct performance audit of the private prisons that Hawai`i contracts with to hold our inmates in out-of-state facilities. We first of all want to thank Chair Magaoay and the committee for agreeing with PSM to waive hearings on SB 2342 SD1 so that the bill could go directly to finance.

SB 2342 SD1,HD1 has now completed all its hearings and will be going to conference. The audit would include a review of the mainland branch, so we think this resolution is duplicative.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our thoughts on HCR 214 HD1.