LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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NO.	

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2888
RELATING TO WORKPLACE TRAINING

by Clayton A. Frank, Director Department of Public Safety

Committee on Public Safety Senator Will Espero, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2008, 2:45 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Senator Espero and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety appreciates the over-all concept of Senate Bill 2888, relating to workplace training. This measure is to ensure that annual training on cultural sensitivity and awareness is provided to Correctional employees statewide including those employed at our contracted facilities out-of-state. The Department also understands that this proposal is to enable Correctional employees to gain sufficient knowledge and understanding of related ethnic and cultural issues including the impact diversity brings to the workplace and in their dealings with adult offenders of various ethnic backgrounds including their families.

The Department of Public Safety currently provides Civil Rights training to the Correctional employees statewide, to prevent discrimination based on a

person's race, sex, religion, age, previous condition of servitude, physical limitation, and national origin. Each correctional officer is also held to a standard of conduct which they give their loyal and faithful attention to execution of their duties, and that they perform the function of their office without fear, favor or prejudice. In addition, the general responsibilities of a Correctional employee shall at all times take appropriate action to observe constitutional guarantees.

Therefore, although the Department of Public Safety appreciates the overall concept of Senate Bill 2888, passage of this measure may be unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.