

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Phone/E-mail: (808) 533-3454/communityallianceonprisons@hotmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2008

2:45 PM

Room 225

SUPPORT with AMENDMENT - SB 2888 - WORKPLACE TRAINING

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Nishihara 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.

SB 2888 requires the department of public safety to develop a curriculum on ethnic and cultural diversity in the workplace and its implications on working with offenders and their families.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports workplace training that promotes understanding and the importance of respecting someone's cultural beliefs. We respectfully offer this amendment:

Amendment: CAP suggests the following language change:

SECTION 2. *The department of public safety shall issue a Request For Proposals to contract for services that develop a training curriculum for its correctional employees to gain a general understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity and its implications for working with offenders of various ethnic backgrounds and their families.*

CAP asserts that the department of public safety has enough to do, therefore, programming in our correctional facilities should be contracted out so that we are offering the latest and best programming available to help individuals rebuild their lives.

When we, as a community, understand that investing in people is investing in our future, we will start achieving the greatness of which we are all capable.

We urge the committee to consider our amendment. Contracting for services is what Sen. Baker, Chair of Ways and Means, suggested to the Department of Public Safety earlier this month.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.