

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 31, 2008

2:45 PM

Room 225

3263

COMMENTS - SB 3262 - CIVIL ACTIONS

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 3263 gives the state of Hawai`i courts jurisdiction over civil actions brought by Hawai`i inmates for events that occurred while incarcerated in a mainland prison.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports the rights of incarcerated people to sue for harms done. We did not have the time to consult with attorneys before this hearing, but wanted to assert the right of due process for citizens seeking redress for legitimate claims with a proper legal basis.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our comments.