

SCR 123

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 123
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE
TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY IN HAWAII OF
COMMUNITY-BASED AND WORK CAMP
ALTERNATIVES TO MAINLAND PRISONS**

by

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

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

Committee on Tourism and Government Operations
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 1:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Senator Tokuda, Senator English, Senator Espero, Senator Nishihara, Senator Kim,
and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the legislature's interest in the challenges that we face with respect to our prison capacity and the further development of our comprehensive re-entry plan, which includes the further development of both, facility and community-based resources for offenders. PSD opposes Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 123, which requests the establishment of a task force to study the feasibility in Hawaii of community-based and work camp alternatives to mainland prisons.

PSD believes this measure to be unnecessary and the duplication of our on-going efforts to further develop our comprehensive re-entry plan, which will be presented to the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the start of the 2009 legislative session as required by ACT 8, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, also known as the Community Safety ACT of 2007. In addition, PSD is currently coordinating the convening of the Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC), which is specifically tasked with making recommendations to the appropriate authorities, on cost-effective mechanisms, legislation, and policies to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the limits established pursuant to Section 353F-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. CPMC also considers and makes recommendations on such issues as:

1. Strategies for the management of projected growth in the inmate population.
2. Bail and other pretrial release programs.
3. Legislation relating to sentencing.
4. Judicial sentencing policies.
5. Intermediate punishments and other alternatives to incarceration.
6. Probation programs.
7. Inmate classification systems.
8. Reintegration and treatment programs for inmates.
9. Paroling policies and supervision programs.
10. Future construction of correctional facilities.

CPMC can also provide valuable information and guidance to all Senate and House Committees to address the wide range of issues and challenges faced with managing correctional facilities, programs, and re-entry needs of the incarcerated population, those on parole, and probation. With over 2,000 state inmates currently in contract prisons on the mainland simply because there is no adequate space in the state to safely and securely house these inmates, the CPMC's role becomes more important as we continue our planning and development efforts to appropriately house, manage, treat, educate, and transition the crowing prison and jail populations.

Further, SCR 123 also requests the PSD consider a site on the Island of Kaho'olawe as a location for inmates to reside and work on undetermined projects. This is not a feasible option to consider as the Island of Kaho'olawe lacks the basic infrastructure required to house inmates and staff. The cost of providing the infrastructure for a work camp alone would be ten of millions of dollars. In addition, the daily cost of maintaining such a remote facility would be much greater than what it costs to operate a medium security facility at another location. It should also be noted that any reasonable expectation of positive impact participation in such a program would have on offenders would be far out weighed by the extremely high cost of operating the facility.

Finally, PSD opposes this measure based on the reasons stated. SCR 123 is simply unnecessary and clearly a duplication of efforts already underway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

testimony

From: Janice.F.Arakaki@hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 2:16 PM
To: Senatetestimony
Cc: Clayton.A.Frank@hawaii.gov; May.I.Andrade@hawaii.gov; Jan.S.Medeiros@hawaii.gov; David.F.Festerling@hawaii.gov; Jeannette.V.Oku@hawaii.gov; Tommy.Johnson@hawaii.gov; Rosalina.P.Aipopo@hawaii.gov; Joanne.T.Tashima@hawaii.gov; James.L.Propotnick@hawaii.gov; Jenny.A.Quezon@hawaii.gov
Subject: Amended Senate Concurrent Resolution 123
Attachments: SCR123_PSD_04_02_08_PBS-AHW.AMD.pdf

Please find attached the Department of Public Safety's Amended Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 123, Requesting the Establishment of a Task Force to Study the Feasibility in Hawaii of Community-Based and Work Camp Alternatives to Mainland Prisons scheduled for hearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, Senate Committee on Public Safety, and Senate Committee on Tourism and Government Operations on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 1:45 p.m. If there are any questions, please contact Thomas L. Read, Legislative Coordinator for Department of Public Safety, at 587-1367.

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