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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 27, 2008
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225
SCR 160
Relating to Public Safety

My name is Andy Botts, author of Nightmare In Bangkok. I strongly support this bill, as the current overcrowding problem in our state can be alleviated through a change in the policies of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

In 1978, the Board of Parole and Pardons became the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Up until then, the prison population statewide for the entire century was approximately 500. Statistics show that the prison population steadily grew since 1978, and is over twelve times of what it had been for the most part of the 20th century. While these factors may be inconclusive in itself, the coincidence raises the question as to the current policies, and if they are in fact the cause for our over-burdened prison system. In life, change is inevitable, and thirty years is a long time for any policy to continue without reviewing alternatives. I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts