

LATE TESTIMONY

Steve Simpson
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
February 12, 2009

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-chair

Thursday, February 12, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Conference room 309

HB 386

RELATING TO PAROLE

SUPPORT

My name is Steve Simpson. I'm a former inmate, and served 26 ½ years in Hawaii's system. I strongly support time-off for good behavior as an incentive to inmates in Hawaii's system, because it gives them hope. Without hope, they have nothing to lose, and will continue on the same negative course that got them in the system in the first place.

Presently, the only avenue for an early release is through the reduction of minimum process. This process has proven to be a sham. Reductions are rarely, if ever, given. During my time in the system, I had no misconducts, never tested positive for drugs, and had community custody for over 10 years. I also applied for a reduction of my minimum sentence annually, but it was regularly denied despite my positive behavior.

Passage of this bill will not duplicate or eliminate the functions of the Paroling Authority, as they still have the final say in regards to parole of the individual. Thanks for the opportunity to testify, it's greatly appreciated.

Steve Simpson