



**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

**FROM:** PAMELA LICHTY, MPH, PRESIDENT

**HEARING DATE & TIME:** APRIL 2, 2009

**RE:** HCR 139 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON INMATE REENTRY PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN PLANNED OR ARE PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT OF 2007.— **IN SUPPORT**

The Drug Policy Action Group is in strong support of HCR 139. This independent study is urgently needed to get a handle on how many transition beds and programs have been created since the 2007 bill was enacted.

The cost analysis of performance indicators is extremely important and this resolution will provide policy makers with a realistic assessment of what is still needed to create a true reentry system.

Thank you for hearing this reso and for allowing me to present testimony in its support.

*The Drug Policy Action Group is a sister organization to the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i. Since 1993 DPFH has been Hawai'i's leading organization dedicated to promoting responsible, effective, and research-based drug policies.*

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the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**

April 2, 2009

To: Representative Faye Hanohano, Chair  
Representative Henry Aquino, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

RE: In Support of HCR 139  
Hearing: April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 309

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I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 139:  
**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON INMATE REENTRY PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN OR ARE PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT OF 2007.**

It is important that an independent agency study the reentry programs that have either been implemented or in the process of being implemented. Reentry programs can help reduce recidivism and therefore the amount of taxpayer money spent on incarceration.

Incarceration is extremely expensive. As more of the state budget is spent on incarceration, it is difficult to fund other priority areas such as education and health. It is the responsibility of the Department of Public Safety to help reduce costs by implementing effective programs that help people successfully transition from prison back into the community.

The taxpayers deserve to know what progress the department has made toward implementing reentry programs; what goals and objectives the department has; and how the department plans to meet them.

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