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GOVERNOR



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No. _

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 216

By

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee Public Safety
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2009; 9:30AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Hanohano, Representative Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **opposes** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 216, which requests the PSD to undertake a feasibility study related to inmate re-integration.

On January 27, 2009, PSD provided an in-depth informational briefing to this Committee and the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs on the department's progress with respect to compliance of the provisions of the Community Safety Act of 2007, many of which were not funded. At the time, PSD also provided an in-depth briefing regarding the department's Comprehensive Offender Reentry System Plan. Further, the PSD provides no less than twenty-six annual reports to the legislature on a variety of issues, including our reentry efforts.

In addition, PSD already requires all able-bodied inmates to participate in facility programs and available work lines. We cannot force inmates to participate in facility programs or available work lines. In cases where inmates refused to comply with facility program and/or work line opportunities, PSD reports this information to the Hawaii Paroling Authority in the inmates' Prescriptive Plan Update (PPU).

Further, we are also developing additional community-based work lines using Correctional Industries that will operate from the FDC Honolulu and the Waiawa Correctional Facility. Therefore, PSD sees no need for this measure as the department already review its efforts, and make appropriate and prudent adjustments as needed to ensure we are meeting the reentry needs of offenders.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:30 AM

Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT

HCR 216/HR 186 - PSD Feasibility Study on Inmate Reintegration

PBSTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for our incarcerated individuals, enhance our quality of justice, and promote public safety. We come today to speak for the 6,000+ individuals whose voices have been silenced by incarceration, always mindful that more than 2,000 of those individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones.

HCR 216/HR 186 requests PSD to undertake a feasibility study related to inmate reintegration.

Community Alliance on Prisons stands in strong support of this measure, which acknowledges that many incarcerated individuals could be eligible for reentry programs. It also adopts a policy that mandates all inmates to participate in in-facility programs, including workline programs, and increases the scope and number of workline programs it currently operates at its prison and jail facilities.

In this economy, we need to reduce the outrageous and rising cost of incarceration by developing a full menu of alternatives to incarceration. As Sen. Jim Webb, the author of the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009 said, *"Focus must be placed on locking up the most dangerous people instead of diverting time and money to incarcerate the wrong people."* Sen. Webb had an article in the Sunday, March 29th Parade Magazine section entitled, **WHY WE MUST FIX OUR PRISONS**, which we encourage you to read. We simply cannot continue to lock up people we are mad at. Prison should be reserved for violent offenders. Read his article at: <http://www.parade.com/news/2009/03/why-we-must-fix-our-prisons.html>

HCR 216/HR 186 promotes accountability and transparency and prods the department into complying with Act 8.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.