



HCR 27

Requesting a Study of Disparate Treatment in Hawaii's Criminal Justice System

Date: April 15, 2009
Room: 329

Time: 10:00am

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports HCR 27.**

The Department of Public Safety reports that Native Hawaiians overwhelmingly comprise thirty-nine percent of the prison population. Data shows that Native Hawaiians are arrested less than Caucasians, and yet, they are sentenced more than Caucasians, and other ethnic groups.

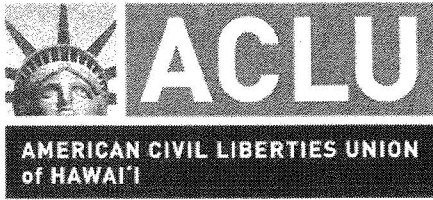
Why are Native Hawaiians over-represented in prison? Hawaii State policies may be racially biased as it imprisons large numbers of Native Hawaiians. On the United States continent, African Americans and Latinos are also over-represented in prisons. Claims of racial disparities can be found in the Justice Policy Institute, *The Vortex*, and Barack Obama and Joe Biden, *Strengthening Our Civil Rights and Criminal Justice Laws*. These publications urge for national and state policy reform to an overwhelming, over-crowded, prejudice criminal justice system.

The proposed study will help uncover the root cause of over-imprisonment. A study is imperative to gather necessary data to accurately assess the criminal justice system. The study is also vital to identify improvements needed for programming services, developing alternative rehabilitation programs, reducing recidivism rates, and effective cost-savings policy reform. With accountable data, the study can produce clear recommendations for mandatory minimums, the three strikes law, drug laws, and community re-entry programming. This information is greatly needed for legislation, law makers, and advocates.

The proposed study would include a multi-method approach to include quantitative and qualitative analysis through the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Justice Policy Institute, and Georgetown University. Past studies produced favorable policy reforms such as the closing of a punitive juvenile detention center in 2003, closing of New York prisons, and informative legislative briefs that inform the need for treatment versus incarceration. Currently, the Justice Policy Institute is providing technical assistance in Alabama to reduce the number of women in the correctional system. A comprehensive study addressing the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians is much needed.

When a Hawaiian person is jailed or imprisoned, the impact of incarceration extends far into families and communities. *Keiki* are left without their natural caregivers, *kupuna* must now care for their grandchildren, and the community loses its vitality of productive citizenship. In short, Hawaii's culture begins to deteriorate as its people become displaced, hidden, and removed from its environment.

OHA would like to support HCR 27. Mahalo nui loa for allowing us to provide testimony.



Via E-mail: HAWTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of HCR 27

Dear Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in strong support of HCR 27, which requests a study of disparate treatment in Hawaii’s criminal justice system.

As evidenced in a recent informational briefing, native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in prison. Studying the reasons why these disparities exist is the first step towards ensuring that our criminal justice system operates in an even-handed and objective manner.

Among other things, this study will help lawmakers identify subjective, rather than objective, points of decision-making in law enforcement.¹ Differences in incarceration may have their inception because of differences in law enforcement officers’ decisions to arrest an individual or issue a warning; detain the individual or let the individual go free; prosecute the individual for all crimes, lesser-included offenses, or no crimes at all. Differences could arise in the types of sentences sought (probation, community custody, or incarceration). Differences can arise in sentencing reports, transfer decisions, and availability of prison-based programs. Examining these points of disparity – and then taking concrete steps to make law enforcement decision-making as objective as possible – has reduced racial disparities in other jurisdictions² and can do so here in Hawaii.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

¹ See, e.g., Building Blocks for Youth Initiative, *No Turning Back Summary: Promising Approaches to Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Affecting Youth of Color in the Justice System* (2005), available at http://www.buildingblocksforyouth.org/noturningback/ntb_summary.pdf.

² See *id.*

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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Hon. Rep. Carroll, Chair, HAW Committee
and Members Thereof

April 15, 2009

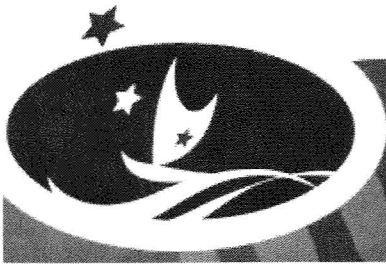
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus 1050 Ala Moana Blvd #D-26, Honolulu, HI 96814 Email: hidemocraticwomenscaucus@yahoo.com

April 15, 2009

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Chair of Legislative Committee, Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

Re: HCR 27 REQUESTING A STUDY OF DISPARATE TREATMENT IN HAWAII'S CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM
(Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for hearing this resolution and for allowing me to present testimony today, in strong support of HCR 27 which requests that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs study the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups in the State's criminal justice system.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus (HSDWC) is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus strongly supports this measure.

A resolution supporting this study was adopted by the Hawai'i State Democratic Party at its 2008 convention. That resolution also urges that legislation be introduced to reduce disparities in the state and federal criminal justice systems. The resolution (HLTH 08-07) is attached.

The HSDWC believes that all citizens are entitled to a fair and just judicial system. Disparities in the criminal justice system foster mistrust in the system, which also impedes the promotion of public safety. This study would be a first step to reducing disparity. The purpose of this study is to determine points in the system where disparities occur and identifying the causes. Then, appropriate intervention and action can be taken to reduce disparities.

The Sentencing Project recently released a report "Reducing Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System a Manual for Practitioners and Policymakers." (The report is available at: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationID=626>). This report defines racial disparity as "when the proportion of a racial or ethnic group within the control of the system is greater than the proportion of such groups in the general population."

Native Hawaiians make up between 40% and 60% of the incarcerated population; but account for 20% of the state's population; and are twice as likely to be incarcerated as any other group. High rates of incarceration have profound social impacts on families and communities; have long-term negative impacts on health, family instability, diminished lifetime wages, social stigma, and educational limitations.

The Justice Policy Institute in a 2007 report "The Vortex" also found racial disparities in incarceration rates for drug offenses. Although reports such as this have been done on a national level, policy makers would be able to make better policy decisions and enact legislation to reduce racial disparities with a report on Hawai'i's criminal justice system. Hawai'i has a unique and multi-cultural population and understanding those nuances requires its own report.

There are many causes of racial disparity; some are institutionalized and long-standing, some are unintended consequences of policies. The study will help determine how we will make the necessary improvements.

I urge the committee to pass HCR 27 so that we may take the first step in making our criminal justice system fair for everyone. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

HLTH 08-07 URGING THE REDUCTION IN DISPARITIES IN TREATMENT IN HAWAII'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Whereas, the Hawai'i State Democratic Party believes that all citizens of Hawai'i are entitled to a fair and just judicial system; and

Whereas, the country's foremost researchers on race and the criminal justice system have analyzed the impact of race on policing, arrests, prosecution, and sentencing; the studies have uniformly found overwhelming disparities based on race; and

Whereas, Native Hawaiians make up only 9.1% of the total population of the State, yet many correctional facility workers estimate the Native Hawaiian inmate population to be close to 60%; Native Hawaiians average 23% of all arrests in Hawai'i and are twice as likely to be incarcerated as any other group in the State; and

Whereas, studies suggest that incarceration-related risks are more problematic in families where a mother has been incarcerated; adult children of incarcerated mothers are two and one-half times more likely to be incarcerated than adult children of incarcerated fathers; 95% of the 120 female Hawai'i inmates incarcerated at a single mainland prison facility are mothers and 71% of the female participants in an O'ahu furlough program are mothers of minor children; and

Whereas, Native Hawaiian families are greatly impacted, as almost 60% of children who are placed in child protective services are of Native Hawaiian descent and of those children, 8% to 33% of their parents are incarcerated; and

Whereas, a study would be helpful in determining the extent, nature, and impact of disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups in Hawai'i's criminal justice system; now, therefore

Be It Resolved by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i that it shall support a study of disparate treatment in Hawai'i's criminal justice systems; and

Be It Further Resolved that legislation be introduced to reduce disparities in the state and federal criminal justice systems; and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation and the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone/E-Mail: (808)533-3454/kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
10:00 AM
Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

HCR 27- Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in Criminal Justice System
HAWTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro 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 27 supports OHA doing a study on the disparate treatment of Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. Mahalo for hearing this important resolution. Community Alliance on Prisons is in STRONG SUPPORT of this measure. The disparity of people of color in the criminal justice system is an issue that is being raised and addressed all across the nation. The U.S., with 5% of the world's population incarcerates 25% of its people and a majority of those people are people of color, as the Pew Center on the States One in 100 report highlights.

(Source: [http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/8015PCTS Prison08 FINAL 2-1-1 FORWEB.pdf](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/8015PCTS%20Prison08%20FINAL%202-1-1%20FORWEB.pdf))

It is long overdue for Hawai'i to conduct a study of the disproportionate representation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. There are several bills this session to address this growing injustice and our stumbling economy provides an opportunity to improve the quality of justice in Hawai'i. This study will provide the necessary data to make the changes necessary to provide equal justice for all.

"The disproportionately high number of young Native Hawaiian men and women in the state's correctional system has profound implications for Native Hawaiian education. Not only are educational and other opportunities severely limited for incarcerated adults, but Native Hawaiian children of inmates are also at increased risk of growing up without a parent to support them through critical stages of growth and development. Moreover, the deviant activities that lead to arrests and incarceration - such as crime and drug use - directly influence the safety and stability of communities, which may further hinder the educational prospects for Native Hawaiian children and adults." (Source: Ka Huaka'i, the 2005 Native Hawaiian Educational Assessment, published by Kamehameha Schools)

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to pass HCR 27. Mahalo for this opportunity testify.



TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, MPH, PRESIDENT

HEARING DATE & TIME: APRIL 15, 2009, 10 a.m., room 329

RE: HCR 27 STUDY ON DISPARATE TREATMENT OF HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - **IN STRONG SUPPORT**

The Drug Policy Action Group is in strong support of HCR 227 have a study done to examine the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians and other groups in the state's criminal justice system.

This is a study that is way overdue. Data on this topic have been gathered before, specifically by Alu Like in the 1990's, but the action plan developed was never implemented.

The bald facts of the overincarceration of Native Hawaiians are obvious to anyone who looks. While Hawaiians make up only 20% of the state's population, those incarcerated are easily more than 40%. Sadly this echoes the treatment of other racial minorities throughout the U.S.

Other states such as Iowa and Connecticut have passed laws examining racial inequality in their criminal justice system. It is time for Hawai'i to do the same. We need to gather the baseline data because it is the right thing to do in recognition of our host culture and in the spirit of true equality and justice.

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 Hawaii's leading organization dedicated to promoting responsible, effective, and research-based drug policies.

Drug Policy Action Group · P.O. Box 61233 · Honolulu, HI 96839
phone/fax: 808 988 4386 *email:* Plichty@hawaii.rr.com

HPACH

919 4th Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

AUGUST 6, 1993

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER, HONOLULU STAR BULLENTIN

DEAR SIR,

ON JANUARY 17, I RENOUNCED MY CITIZENSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES (LETTER ENCLOSED). ALL THE RECENT EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MOVEMENT FOR HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY, TELLS ME THAT I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.

THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM WAS CREATED BY HAWAIIANS. HAWAIIANS FIGHTING HAWAIIANS AND SPILLING THEIR BLOOD TO BE AN INDEPENDANT NATION OF THEIR OWN AND THE FREE WORLD.

AFTER THE WARS WERE OVER, THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM ORGANIZED ITSELF AS A NATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAWS.

EVERYTHING, FROM A NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, TREATIES WITH FOREIGN NATIONS INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES TO BUILDING A NEW PALACE WERE ALL PARTS OF THE NEW NATION.

THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM WAS CREATED FOR THE PERPETUATION OF HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER HAWAII.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF HAWAII, THE REPUBLIC OF HAWAII, THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII AND THE STATE OF HAWAII GOVERNMENTS WERE ALL CREATED BY NON-HAWAIIANS TO HAVE AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY RULE OVER HAWAII.

AFTER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BEING UNDER AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY, HAWAIIANS TODAY SHOULD REALIZE THAT IT IS TIME FOR HAWAIIANS TO REUNITE OURSELVES AS A FREE AND INDEPENDANT NATION ONCE MORE.

HAWAIIANS TODAY MUST STAND UP FOR COMPLETE INDEPENDANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. HAWAIIANS MUST SECURE HAWAII AS A NATIONAL HOMETLAND FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN TO COME.

HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE THE SUPREME LAW OF HAWAII.

UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO!

"HANA LIKE KAKOU NO HAWAII"

R. Pomaikaoikalani Kinney
RICHARD POMAIKAOIKALANI KINNEY

SOVEREIGNTY, HAWAIIAN POLITICAL ACTION
COUNCIL OF HAWAII

731 McCULLY ST., PH-3, HONOLULU, 96826

HPACH

919 4th Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I, RICHARD POMAIIKAI KINNEY
(NAME)

919 4th Street, Pearl City, Honolulu, Hawaii 96782
(ADDRESS)

a NATIVE HAWAIIAN descendant, do hereby declare myself
SOVEREIGN unto GOD the CREATOR.

I, further declare my autonomous right, as a NATIVE
HAWAIIAN descendant, to uphold with body and soul, the
autonomous right of all NATIVE HAWAIIAN descendants and
their OHANA.

"HANA LIKE KAKOU"

July 16, 1984
(DATE OF NOTARY)

Richard Pomaikai Kinney
(NAME)

919 4th St Pearl City HI

STATE OF HAWAII)
) ss
City and County of Honolulu)

On this 16th day of July, 1984 , before me personally
appeared Richard Pomaikai Kinney, to me known to be the person described
in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he
executed the same as his free act and deed.

My Commission expires: July 31, 1986

Richard Pomaikai Kinney
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Hawaii

HPACH

919 4th Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

STATE OF HAWAII
City and County of Honolulu } ss.

I, Henry Richard Kinney, Jr., a Native Hawaiian descendant and Sovereign, born on December 26, 1938 at Queen's Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, do hereby renounce my citizenship to the United States of America as of 6 P.M. Hawaiian Standard Time on January 17, 1993.

I protest against any and all acts done against my native country, the Hawaiian Kingdom and its constitutional sovereign, Queen Liliuokalani by United States troops on January 17, 1893.

He
He

Now, to avoid any collision of arrest from agents of the United States, and perhaps the loss of my life and freedom, I seek the full independence of the Hawaiian Islands as an independant nation of the Free World.

He

Henry R. Kinney

Henry R. Kinney, Jr.
731 McCully Street
Honolulu, Hawaii
96826

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
15th day of January, 1993

Sam H. O'Brien

Notary Public, First Judicial Circuit
State of Hawaii

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 6-1-96

ls

HPACH

919 4th Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

April 15, 2009

Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
And Committee Members On Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives, 2009 Legislature Session
State of Hawaii

Subject: HCR 27 Requesting A Study Of Disparate Treatment In Hawaii's
Criminal Justice System, SUPPORT

ALOHA Kakou,

My name is Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney. On January 16, 1993 after reading Pubic Law 103-150 I renounced my citizenship to the United States. I come here today as a Hawaiian Nationalist of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I strongly support the restoration of the Hawaiian Kingdom government that invaded and occupied thru an Act of War on January 16, 1893 with the involvement of the diplomatic and military forces of the United States.

As Sovereign of the Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii, I STRONGLY SUPPORT the intent and passage of HCR 27. It is my understanding that Native Hawaiians, the Kanaka Maoli people of Hawaii are serving prison time when non Native Hawaiians who are found guilty for the same violations of laws, serve no prison time. This is HEWA.

HPACH supports that all Native Hawaiians serving prison time serve their prison time in Hawaii. No Native Hawaiian should be serving prison time away from their ancestral homeland, the Hawaiian Kingdom.

HPACH further supports that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustees provide every Native Hawaiian legal representation every time a Native Hawaiian has to go to Court. Especially those Native Hawaiians who are federally recognized by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the Hawaii Admission Act of 1959.

All Native Hawaiians, the Kanaka Maoli Hawaii rights are addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and supported by the 2005 State of Hawaii Legislature passage of HCR 195, HD 1.

HPACH

919 4th Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

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HCR 27

I believe that every Hawaiian Ohana has had to face problems with the laws. Having Ohana members serving prison time. My Ohana is no exception. My Ohana has paid the painful price of having our love ones serving prison time.

As a small child I was aware of an older cousin of mine who was serving prison time.

HPACH supports that Native Hawaiians be treated equally under Hawaii's Criminal Justice System. No more, no less.

Once more I SUPPORT the intent and passage of HCR 27.

Mahalo nui for allowing me to give testimony on this important Bill.

Attachment: Renouncement Documents

ALOHA KUU AINA HAWAII



Richard Pomaikaikalani Kinney, SOVEREIGN
Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii
87-168 Maaloa Street, Waianae, Hawaii, 96792
Email: HIAHAWAII@aol.com

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: Kevin Block [kevin.block@meoinc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 9:45 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ken Hunt; Kanoe Medeiros
Subject: HCR 27

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
10:00 AM
Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

HCR 27 – STUDY ON THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF HAWAIIANS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Dear Chairpersons Carroll and Shimabukuro and committee members;

I am the Assistant Director of the BEST program in Maui County. I work directly with incarcerated men and women, prior to and subsequent to their release.

A disproportionate number of the clients I serve are Native Hawaiians. I believe it is the responsibility of those that make and shape policy to at least inquire as to the reasons that are behind this over-representation. If the numbers bear out, even the most conservative estimates, they are indication that are justice system is broken and that we are falling short of our goal of equal protection under the law.

There are many points in the procedural continuum where discretionary decisions are made. A comprehensive study would help us shine light on where these decisions are unfairly impacting those that we serve.

Across the nation, States are realizing and addressing disparity in the criminal justice system. Let us not fall behind as we as a nation continue to foster equal justice in our laws, policies and legislation.

“The arc of history is long, but it bends towards justice”

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

KEVIN BLOCK, J.D.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
B.E.S.T. PROGRAM, MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
PHONE: 808-249-2990 EXT. 320
E MAIL: KEVIN.BLOCK@MEOINC.ORG



"FOR TO BE FREE IS NOT MERELY TO CAST OFF ONE'S CHAINS. BUT TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT RESPECTS AND ENHANCES THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS."

~NELSON MANDELA

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Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: Kanoe Medeiros [kanoe.medeiros@meoinc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 11:16 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Kevin Block
Subject: HCR 27

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
10:00 AM
Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT

HCR 27 – STUDY ON THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF HAWAIIANS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kanoe Medeiros and I am Program Developer for the BEST Reintegration Program on Maui, which allows me to work with men and women incarcerated at Maui Community Correctional Center. In addition, I am Native Hawaiian.

Throughout the six years I have worked with the BEST Program, I have been enlightened on Hawaii's criminal justice system and have seen the disproportionate number of Native Hawaiians being incarcerated within the state. Sadly, these individuals are not being provided opportunities to develop healthy minds and bodies through educational, cultural, and treatment programs within prisons and are therefore not properly equipped to return to our community to take on roles of father, mother, brother, sister and as contributing members.

I strongly support HCR No. 27 and have full confidence in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in completing a study of the disparate treatment in Hawaii's criminal justice system. The recent attacks on Native Hawaiian organizations demonstrates the continuous struggle Native Hawaiians face daily, in and out of prison. As a Native Hawaiian, I feel conducting this study will be a good use of OHA's time and investment and perhaps serve as a model throughout the nation. Furthermore, it will offer a means to correcting a system that treats Native Hawaiians unfairly and the negative impacts it has on the entire community.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

*Kanoe Medeiros
Program Developer
MEO, Inc. - BEST Reintegration Program
PO Box 2122
Kahului, Hawai'i 96733
Phone: (808) 249-2990
Fax: (808) 249-2991*

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