



**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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

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

**RE:** HCR 154/HR124 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO REVIEW ITS EFFORTS OF PROVIDING REENTRY SERVICES TO ALL INMATES RELEASED FROM CUSTODY – **IN SUPPORT**

The Drug Policy Action Group is in strong support of HCR 154/HR124. This reso will force PSD to be accountable and transparent in its efforts to provide reentry services.

Only in this manner can the state be certain that the programs they have created on paper are actually working to improve the lives of formerly incarcerated persons, reduce recidivism and enhance community safety.

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 154/HR 124  
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 154/HR 124: **REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO REVIEW ITS EFFORTS OF PROVIDING REENTRY SERVICES TO ALL INMATES RELEASED FROM CUSTODY.**

Reentry programs can help reduce recidivism and therefore the amount of taxpayer money spent on incarceration. The Department of Public Safety must be held accountable for providing effective reentry services to all inmates released from custody. Approximately 90% of those incarcerated will be released back into the community. Successful reintegration should be a priority for the department.

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 so that they do not return to prison.

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