



**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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

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

**RE:** HCR 216/HR186 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO UNDERTAKE A FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATED TO INMATE RE-INTEGRATION – **IN SUPPORT**

The Drug Policy Action Group is in strong support of HCR 216/HR186. This reso would adopt a policy whereby all inmates must participate in in-facility programs including work-line programs and would increase the number and scope of the latter.

Like the other resos on today's agenda, these will also promote accountability and transparency – two highly desirable outcomes.

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](mailto:Plichty@hawaii.rr.com)



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 216/HR186  
Hearing: April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 309

**Board of Directors**

Pamela Lichty, M.P.H.  
*President*

Kat Brady  
*Vice President*

Heather Lusk  
*Treasurer*

Katherine Irwin, Ph.D.  
*Secretary*

Michael Kelley, D.Phil.

Richard S. Miller, Prof. of  
Law Emer.

Robert Perkinson, Ph.D.

*Donald Topping, Ph.D.*  
*Founder 1929-2003*

P.O. Box 61233  
Honolulu, HI 96839

Phone: (808)-988-4386  
Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: [info@dpfhi.org](mailto:info@dpfhi.org)  
Website: [www.dpfhi.org](http://www.dpfhi.org)

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 216/HR186: **REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO UNDERTAKE A FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATED TO INMATE RE-INTEGRATION.**

These resolutions adopt a policy that mandates all inmates participate in in-facility programs, including worklines and increases the scope and number of worklines.

It is realistic to expect that the department knows how many inmates could be eligible for reintegration programs and how to address those needs.

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.