


OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Legislative Testimony

HB1664
Relating to Corrections

LATE TESTIMONY

Date: February 10, 2009
Room: 329

Time: 9:00am

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports HB 1664 with amendments.**

The purpose of this bill is to "establish a Hawaiian cultural restoration program for non-violent inmates to participate in a workforce dedicated to the preservation and restoration of historic Hawaiian sites and areas as determined by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs."

OHA supports the intent of the bill to conduct a pilot program for non-violent pa`ahao to work on cultural sites. Offenders who participate in work furlough and cultural rehabilitative programs have better outcomes of success.

However, there are parts of the bill that need further discussion and clarification. Therefore, we would like the following to be considered. First, we would like to request a meeting between OHA and the Department of Public Safety to discuss specific areas of the program. More specifically, will the Department of Public Safety provide a classification list, and administer the program?

Second, in Section 3 of the bill, there is a reference that suggests OHA will provide appropriations to support the program. We would like to suggest that the appropriations for this program be funded through other means for the following reasons:

OHA supports many non-profit organizations who serve pa`ahao. These programs includes TJ Mahoney, Alu Like Inc., Maui Economic B.E.S.T program, and Ho`omau Ke Ola. OHA would like to continue its support to the community, despite its huge portfolio loss, and suggest that collaborative funding through federal, state, and county be explored.

On January 22, 2009, the Department of Public Safety reported that appropriated funds of \$2.3 million dollars were not expended. Many of these funds were designated for rehabilitative programs for pa`ahao. We hope that these unspent funds can be reallocated to this program.

OHA would like to support HB 1664 with amendments. Mahalo nui loa for allowing us to provide testimony.



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 11, 2009

TO: Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
And Members
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Mahealani Cypher, President
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

SUBJECT: H. B. 1664, Relating to Corrections

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club supports House Bill 1664 and urges this committee to pass this bill. In our work to protect and preserve ancient Hawaiian cultural resources, we find that many of these sites require a great deal of physical labor to clear brush and debris. Those of us who are able to malama the sites find it spiritually and physically rewarding to help restore or reveal the hidden treasures found under the overgrowth.

This bill would benefit both our cultural resources and those who are incarcerated, and we strongly urge that this bill be passed into law.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

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