

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 28, 2010

9:45 AM

Room 309

**SUPPORT for HB1981 - Medical release of ill or disabled inmates**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Aloha Reps. Hanohano and Aquino and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of HB1981 which requires that the Hawaii paroling authority establish a medical release program for no-risk inmates who are permanently and totally disabled, terminally ill, or geriatric. The bill also requires the Department of Public Safety to assess and refer inmates to the Hawaii paroling authority and set conditions for medical release.

I believe that this bill humanizes the Hawaii criminal justice system and provides the opportunity for the state to show compassion to those inmates who are clearly no threat to the community. It is not in any way in the interest of the state or Hawaii taxpayers to make these inmates serve out their prison terms.

Please vote for passage of HB1981.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel

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