



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**

of hawai'i

LATE TESTIMONY

March 18, 2010

To: Representative Faye Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry Aquino, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: HCR 187 (HOPE Parole)
Hearing: Thursday, March 18, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Room 309

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of HCR 187 which requests that the Hawaii Paroling Authority establish a HOPE parole pilot program.

This pilot program would be patterned after the HOPE Probation program which has been shown to be successful in reducing arrests for new crimes; reducing drug use; reducing skipped appointments with probation officers; and reducing rates of probation revocation.

The HOPE program is based on the premise that violations of probation should be met with consequences that are proportionate to the violation. Interviews with those under the HOPE program feel that the program is fair and the consequences are fair. This belief leads to a respect for the system and to following the rules that are set for them.

In the same way, we have the opportunity to turn the parole system into a system that is more effective in reducing recidivism and the return to crime. It is unfortunate that technical violations of parole can lead to incarceration for several years. These sanctions are expensive and ineffective in reducing recidivism. Hawai'i cannot afford to waste money on ineffective prison programs while needed education, health and human service programs are cut.

We urge the passage of this resolution. Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of this measure.

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
Website: www.dpfhi.org