



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 188 (Huikahi Restorative Circles)  
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 188 which requests that the Department of Public Safety facilitate the delivery of the Huikahi Restorative Circles program in Hawai'i correctional facilities.

The Huikahi Restorative Circles derive from the indigenous practices of addressing wrong doing. The practices of restorative justice help repair bonds between people, families, or communities beyond what our criminal justice system can do.

Restorative practices assist in the reentry of an individual back into the community after incarceration. The Hawaiian practice of ho'oponopono is an example of a restorative practice. The restorative circles program gives an individual and their family a chance to start making amends before the individual returns home. These programs can help reduce recidivism by making reentry more successful. Reducing recidivism reduces our prison budget. We cannot ignore effective programs that help reduce prison costs.

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