

# SR 89

# SCR 190

**Measure Title:**

REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS POPULATION  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO RESUME ITS MEETINGS  
AND TO MEET A LEAST QUARTERLY

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



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No. \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS ON SEANTE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 190  
REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS POPULATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMISSION TO RESUME ITS MEETINGS AND TO MEET AT LEAST  
QUARTERLY.

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 1, 2010; 1:20PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Senator Espero, Senator Bunda, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) thanks the legislature for their interest in having the Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC) resume meetings and the meetings to be conducted quarterly.

It should be noted that the CPMC has been meeting quarterly from June 2008. The most recent meeting scheduled for March 11, 2010 was unfortunately canceled due to CPMC members' legislative duties that prevented a quorum from being reached. PSD will continue to support the efforts of the CPMC. However, without adequate paid staff positions solely dedicated to the CPMC, the commission will not be able to fully fulfill its mission as outlined in HRS §353F.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 1, 2010

1:20 p.m.

Room 229

SUPPORT – SCR 190/SR 89 – Corrections Population Management Commission

[PSMTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:PSMTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a diverse community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for Hawai'i's incarcerated individuals, enhance the quality of justice, and promote public safety by supporting smart justice policies. We come today to speak for the 6,000+ individuals whose voices have been silenced by incarceration, always mindful that almost 2,000 of those individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones.

SCR 190/SR 89 requests the Corrections Population Management Commission to resume its meetings and to meet at least quarterly.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure.

The Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC) was formed when the Department of Justice imposed a Consent Decree on Hawai'i for severe prison overcrowding. The CPMC is a legislatively appointed body that was established through Act 343, Session Laws of Hawaii 1993. It expanded from eight to eleven members representing all three branches of state government, the county prosecuting attorney, and two community representatives. The objective for the CPMC is "establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and to formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility" (Section 353F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes). The CPMC is administratively attached to the Department of Public Safety.

The CPMC is currently meeting quarterly, but this just started in June 2008. This legislatively appointed body should have been part of the discussion on the proposed closure of Kulani. If they had been meeting and given the population numbers at each facility, they would have been aware that the population at Kulani was decreasing.

Had the population numbers been distributed, the CPMC could have questioned why PSD was decreasing the population of Kulani - the facility with the largest and most successful sex offender treatment program in the nation - while the administration was introducing plenty of bills regarding sex assault, which would inevitably increase the incarceration of sex offenders.

This lack of transparency is very disappointing from an administration that promised in A New Beginning for Hawai'i:

*Making Government Work Better*

*"Restoring integrity to government requires us to share information openly with the public so the people of Hawai'i will know the true condition of state government, the programs it operates and the results of its efforts. Both elected leaders and the public must know the information essential to good decision-making. Government resources are limited, so all spending and policy choices must be based on reliable information and clearly articulated values and objectives, rather than short-term political considerations. ...Financial accountability and openness are essential if government leaders are able to make sound decision and then be held accountable for the actual results. They are absolutely necessary to break the vicious cycle of corruption and favoritism in state contracting, and to restore trust and integrity in government service."*

The CPMC was established to control the incarcerated population and determine how to best handle increases. The fact that 54% of Hawai'i's prison population is abroad should be a matter of great discussion for the CPMC. We were heartened to hear PSD tell the House Public Safety Committee that from now on they would be distributing population reports at the CPMC meetings, which are open to the public.

The Corrections Population Management Commission provides a level of oversight of the Department of Public Safety, which is sorely needed.

Committee members, even though the Lingle administration is on their way out, please make them do their jobs and hold them accountable, as they demand from those in their custody.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
o f h a w a i ' i

April 1, 2010

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SR 89 and SCR 190 Corrections Population Management  
Hearing: Thursday, April 1, 2010, 1:20 p.m., Room 229

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of SR 89 and SCR 190 which requests that the Department of Public Safety resume the meetings of the Corrections Population Management Commission; and that the meetings are convened at least quarterly.

This commission was established to determine how increases in the inmate population would be handled. The continued increase in the number of Hawai'i inmates housed in mainland prisons is one reason that this commission should be convened.

The current budget crisis requires that our inmate population is managed by setting goals for cost and census. The recent closing of Kulani prison is an example of a decision that should have been discussed by this commission.

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

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