

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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January 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1067 - RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF YOUTH TO AN
ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

Hearing: Monday, January 31, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1067 is to repeal section 352-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which authorizes the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services, with the approval of the Family Court, to transfer a committed youth from the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility to an adult correctional facility for disciplinary or other reasons.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill.

This proposed bill will ensure that youth committed to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility will not be transferred, for disciplinary or other reasons, to adult correctional facilities where they would be exposed to serious adult offenders and subjected to possible physical, mental, and sexual assault.

In addition, the proposed bill will simplify the State of Hawaii's efforts to comply with the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) which requires "sight and sound" separation between juvenile and adult offenders. Violation of this requirement would jeopardize future federal funding.

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

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Monday, January 31, 2011

Room 329

9 am

HB 1067 - Repeals Section 352-28

STRONG SUPPORT

HUSTestimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on prison reform and justice issues in Hawai`i for more than a decade. We respectfully offer our testimony always being mindful that Hawai`i has some 6,000 people behind bars with almost 1,800 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones and homes - ancestral home for a disproportionate number.

HB 1067 repeals section 352-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which authorizes the executive director of the office of youth services, with the approval of the family court, to transfer a committed youth from the Hawai`i Youth Correctional Facility to an adult correctional facility for disciplinary or other reasons.

Community Alliance on Prisons stands in strong support of this measure. Hawai`i's correctional facilities are not equipped or staffed to handle youthful lawbreakers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.