

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 876
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

by

**Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Interim Director
Department of Public Safety**

House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 17, 2011; 9:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of House Bill 876 since PSD has a well defined need to build correctional facilities and provide for the custodial care and program needs of offenders.

PSD is willing to work with the department of accounting and general services to plan and design a minimum security correctional facility; however, PSD request that any bills relating to the development of new correctional facilities be consolidated into one measure that would address master planning for new or the expansion of existing correctional facilities. Presently PSD already has various plans and designs in place.

This measure requires a jail or detention style design that is inconsistent with the custody and security requirements of a minimum security offender. The detention style design dramatically increases building costs that would be unnecessary.

With the strong support of Senate Bill 1358 to re-open the Kulani Correctional Facility, and the intent to expand the Waiawa Correctional Facility and the community correctional centers community-based programs, it would appear PSD will have

adequate bed space for the custodial care and program requirements for the minimum custody offenders.

Therefore, PSD respectfully requests this measure be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

National Association of Reformed Criminals
Andy Botts & Franklin Jackson
1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815
February 17, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday February 17, 2011

9:00 AM

Room 309

HB 876 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

OPPOSE

The problem that we are faced with now is a result of the construction of OCCC. In 1972, Legislatures were sold on this same-worded plan. OCCC was supposed to be a community correctional center with emphasis on non-prison programs. However, when the doors opened in 1980 it filled up immediately – and then doubled, tripled, quadrupled, etc, etc, etc, until the population multiplied 12-fold from 500 to 6000. We couldn't afford it then – and we can't afford it again – especially now. Our own history should be a lesson that this expensive proposal won't reduce the numbers or is it a solution. Even though I am firmly against sending our prisoners and tax money to the mainland, it is still a better bet than repeating the same mistake over again and expecting different results.

Our focus would be better spent on private non-prison half-way houses, to save lives and money.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts