

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 533-3454 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 31, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Room 309

SUPPORT INTENT

HCR 115 - PSD/DHHL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUPPORT INTENT

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

Aloha Chairs Hanohano and Aquino and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator Community Alliance on Prisons. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that almost 1,800 individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SCR 110 requests PSD and DHHL to establish a task force to consider if they should enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to have DHHL administer and operate a community-based program for offenders in Hawai'i.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports the intent of this well-meaning intent resolution, yet our experience warns us that the prison privateers will soon be buzzing around DHHL selling them on their ability to administer culturally competent programming. This is NOT true. CCA in Eloy, AZ (Saguaro Correctional Facility) has done plenty to impede the rights of Native Hawaiians and members of the Hawaiian Religious and Spirituality collective to exercise their religious and constitutionally protected practices. Lawsuits brought on behalf of our men by the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation attest to this fact.

As long as the selection process, the meetings, the information shared, and the minutes are open to the public we support the intent, although we believe they could just talk to each other right now to see if this is feasible.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:32 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR115 on 3/31/2011 10:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HAW/PBM 3/31/2011 10:00:00 AM HCR115

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:
Regarding HCR204, HR176, and HCR115:

These proposals are perhaps the best legislation to come forth from the Hawaiian Affairs Committee. I would very much like to give my wholehearted support to these creative proposals, except for a few issues not addressed in them. Please improve the language of the resolution to address these issues explicitly.

1. There should be no racial requirement or preference when identifying the inmates to be housed and treated in the facilities envisioned for the Hawaiian Homelands. The language of the resolutions should be improved to make it clear that there will be no separation of inmates by race either in choosing which inmates get sent to which facilities or in deciding which inmates receive which specific programs within an institution. All inmates whose criminal records, family stability, social situation etc. make them similarly situated should receive the same treatments based on those factors and not based on race. There should be no racial segregation either between institutions or internally within any particular institution. Prisons on DHHL lands should not be seen as factories for recruiting or inculcating inmates with Hawaiian sovereignty-focused political attitudes.

2. There should be no "rent" paid to DHHL for the use of the land. As the "whereas" language makes clear, a significant percentage of the inmate population is ethnic Hawaiian. The ethnic Hawaiian activists have made it a major issue that those inmates who are ethnic Hawaiians should remain in Hawaii. Therefore, the use of DHHL land for these prison facilities should be seen as a great benefit for ethnic Hawaiians and a worthy use of DHHL lands without payment of "rent"; This project should not be a "cash cow" for DHHL.

3. In the event an ethnic Hawaiian governing entity is established either through passage of the federal Akaka bill or through passage of Hawaii legislation to create a state-recognized "Akaka tribe", the prison facilities established on DHHL lands must remain owned and operated by the State of Hawaii and not by the "tribe"; The State of Hawaii should not be in the position of investing megabucks in building these State prison

facilities, only to then see these facilities become transferred out of the State of Hawaii and into the Akaka tribe.

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:00 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: netra@electnetra.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR115 on 3/31/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HAW/PBM 3/31/2011 10:00:00 AM HCR115

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Netra Halperin, M.A.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: netra@electnetra.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

I absolutely support any investigation into community based treatment for offenders. Since 85% of Hawaii offenders either meet the medical criteria of substance abuse disorder, or drugs or alcohol were involved with their crime, they respond more effectively to substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation and skills training than to punishment.

Especially Hawaiians need to receive culturally appropriate rehabilitation, or they will not be able to resolve the issues that initially caused them to offend, and they will recidivate, causing more harm to the public, their families, themselves and ultimately the tax-payer. Culturally sensitive, community-based treatment will be a win-win for all.

Please pass HCR115

Thank you for hearing my testimony,

Netra Halperin, M.A.