



**HCR116**  
**REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE**  
**TO REPORT ON STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES TO**  
**REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS**  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 23, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments regarding HCR116, which requests the convening of a task force to report on strategies and resources to reduce recidivism among Native Hawaiians.

OHA's recent report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," shows that the Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system accumulate at each stage from arrest through parole. While Native Hawaiians are arrested at a comparable rate as other populations, Native Hawaiians are more likely to be incarcerated, have longer sentences, and more likely to have their parole revoked.

OHA appreciates the intent of this resolution. The publication of our criminal justice study has resulted in our building relationships and sharing data with various stakeholder groups, state agencies, academic partners and existing task forces. One such task force we are now participating with is the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS), whose vision is to reduce recidivism and prevent future victimization by adult offenders. We note that HCR116 would be duplicative of ICIS and other similar efforts, and may not provide enough time to develop and implement effective proposals.

OHA's study shows that early intervention will decrease the need for incarceration and lighten the impact on the judiciary and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system. While a fair amount of attention is given to addressing recidivism, much less focus is provided to early intervention and diversion. A bill in our legislative package, SB986, would create a task force that would fill this gap.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

## clee2 - Matt

---

**From:** Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 7:55 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: HCR 116

TESTIMONY: HCR 116, requesting the convening of a task force to report on strategies and resources to reduce recidivism among Native Hawaiians

Wednesday, March 23, 2011  
8:30am  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this legislation. Native Hawaiians are vastly over-represented in thkis portion of the population. We would recommend that ALU LIKE to named as a part of the task force as it has had much experience in this area.

Thank you

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director  
Papa Ola Lokahi  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808-597-6550