

March 30 2011, 2011
Chair Oshiro
and Members of the House Committee on
finance,
Hawai'i State Capitol,
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Aloha Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

LATE TESTIMONY

My name is James Wataru I am the State President of the united Public Workers Union which represents unit 10 Adult corrections officers and unit 1 support staff from the formerly state run Kulani Correctional facility. For the record i am not here this morning in my capacity as an officer of the union.

I am submitting this on behalf of the many union members who for obvious geographical and financial constraints are not able to attend in person but have expressed just how important this is to them and because I too believe it is the right thing to do. it is no secret we need more prison space and the new administration has said that they plan to bring back all of the inmates on the mainland but where will they go? We need new prisons that is the fact but we have no money the State has no money and we cant get it from the Feds, our new Governor said recently "we are on our own" and i am baffled as he stated during his campaign that he was the one who would be able to get us needed federal monies what happened I dont know but the fact still remains we need more space. So if we cant build more prisons then we need to make use of the facilities we have and Kulani is one of those facilities.

So many were affected by the closing of this facility not just the inmates, but there families, as well as the many employees of not only Kulani but HCCC as well as they were displaced by more senior Kulani employees. In some cases these employees were given just hours to make this very difficult decision to except work on a different island and leave your family behind, to pack up your family and move everyone ,or to be placed on the recall list which basically means you are fired but will get a chance to "apply" again should a position become available. So some found jobs at other facilities some retired and some were Layed off because they were unable to uproot their families and move to a different island and for those who did that created yet another challenge for them kids not seeing their Mom or Dad for weeks or months at a time spouses not seeing each other and one parent being left behind to raise the kids while one worked to pay the bills and I have heard of some personal stories of a couple ACOS who took jobs at Halawa but had to live in their cars because they could not afford to pay rent on Oahu and the Mortgage on their home and to me THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE!

Now as a father of six boys and a very active foster parent and advocate I fully understand the need for programs like Youth Challenge and the critical role they play in society these programs give our at risk youth a second chance and the direction they need so that they dont end up in these very same correctional facilities this bill wants to reopen and i am sympathetic to their situation but at the end of the day the fact is we need more prison space. This bill would allow for that

space to reopen but would also make sure that Youth Challenge finds a new home.

So i submit this testimony in very strong support of SB 1358 lets reopen this facility and bring these inmates home like the Governor wants but more importantly lets reopen this facility so we can get our workers back on the job and home to THEIR FAMILIES.

respectfully submitted by

JAMES WATARU

SB 1358 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

AMEND BILL WITH LANGUAGE THAT WOULD MANDATE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY THAT THEY SHALL, WILL, OR MUST STAFF THE KULANI FACILITY UPON ITS REOPENING WITH FORMER EMPLOYEES FROM KULANI TO THE POSITIONS THEY HELD PRIOR TO THE CLOSING OF THE FACILITY, AND TO ALSO WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION BRING BACK ANY AND ALL PERSONNEL THAT MAY HAVE BEEN BUMPED, LAYED OFF OR TOOK EMPLOYMENT IN A NEW GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION REGARDLESS OF ANY AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN THE EMPLOYEE AND THE EMPLOYER REGARDING TRANSFERRING BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL WORK PLACE.

THESE POSITIONS SHALL BE OFFERED FIRST TO FORMER EMPLOYEES OF KULANI AND HCCC BEFORE ALLOWING ANY OTHER TRANSFERS FROM EMPLOYEES WHO WERE NOT AFFECTED OR EMPLOYED BY THAT FACILITY AT THE TIME OF THE CLOSING

LATE TESTIMONY

National Association of Reformed Criminals

NARC

1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815

March 30, 2011

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday March 30, 2011

10:00 AM

Room 308

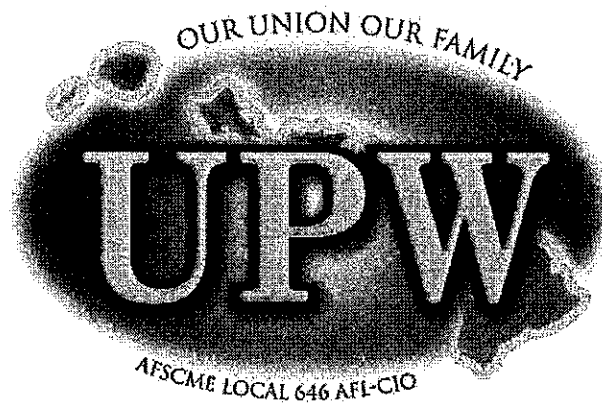
SB 1358 SD2 HD1

STRONG SUPPORT

Kulani Honor camp was never a problematic facility and is a perfect environment to house offenders away from the community. It will also help to alleviate the costs of housing offenders on the mainland, and/or the endless costs of another facility in Hawaii. The greatest benefit is that it could re-open immediately, at a cost savings, while expanding re-entry programs.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts



LATE

**Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Hearing Date: March 30, 2011**

Testimony By United Public Workers

Re: SB 1358, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1093) – RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for public employees in bargaining Unit 1 blue collar non-supervisory and Unit 10 institutional, health and correctional facilities.

The United Public Workers (UPW) strongly supports S.B. 1358, SD2, HD1 which requires the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to formulate a plan which would reopen the Kulani Correctional Facility. The bill requests that the plan include an implementation process that would both return former Kulani prisoners and house new inmates. This bill also requests that the Department of Public Safety consider transferring or reinstating former employees back to Kulani.

The reopening of Kulani Correctional Facility would provide approximately 80 jobs and contribute over \$4 million dollars in revenue to the State of Hawaii at a time when it's badly needed. For these reasons, UPW strongly supports S.B. 1358, SD2, HD1 and recommends this bill for passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1358, SD2, HD1.



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

LATE

March 30, 2011

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 1358 SD2 HD1 Relating to Public Safety
Hearing: March 30, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Room 308

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of SB 1358 SD2 HD1 Relating to Public Safety which requires the department of public safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani Correctional Facility implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals and report to legislature.

Hawai'i spends approximately \$60 million on out-of-state prisons. In light of those expenditures, the closure of Kulani was ill-advised. Instead of propping up our own economy, we exported the jobs at Kulani to Arizona and we continue to invest in mainland states instead of our own.

Kulani was also the largest sex offender treatment program in Hawai'i and the most successful sex offender treatment program in the nation, with less than a 2% recidivism rate since 1988. Why close such a successful facility?

Kulani also was the most successful reentry facility in that each individual there had to work and then manage the completion of their required programming in the evening. It developed good work ethics and developed marketable job skills in the individuals who served their sentences there. Again, why close such a successful facility?

The re-opening of Kulani would hasten the return of those housed in mainland facilities.

We urge the committee to require the reopening of Kulani. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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P.O. Box 241042
Honolulu, HI 96824-1042

Phone: (808)-988-4386
Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: info@dpfhi.org
Website: www.dpfhi.org

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bobleehnl@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1358 on 3/30/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/30/2011 10:00:00 AM SB1358

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert Lee
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bobleehnl@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

The priorities specified in SB 1358 are wrong and backwards. The priority should be to insure the Youth Challenge Academy currently residing in the Kulani facility finds a suitable home first (and it could be where it currently is). The Kulani YCA is funded 75% by the federal govt in order to provide drop outs and at risk students a high school diploma. The operating costs for Kulani Prison, while servicing 70-100 inmates, is \$6M per year. The State can't afford this. During this continued financial crises in the State budget, it would be more fiscally responsible to spend \$800K of State dollars to operate a \$3.2M youth program or to spend \$6M for the prison. Additionally, shouldn't scarce taxpayer dollars be spent on the youth and future of our State rather than spending more on peopl that have harmed society?