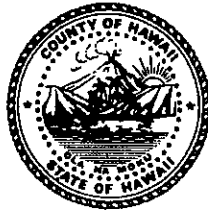


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawaii **LATE TESTIMONY** Office of the Mayor

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March 17, 2011

Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
And Members of the House Committee on
Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1358, which instructs the state Department of Public Safety to plan for the reopening of the Kulani Correctional Facility to house minimum security prisoners.

The decision to close Kulani Correctional Facility in 2009 reduced prisoners' opportunities for rehabilitation by eliminating treatment and job training programs that had been housed at Kulani. Those programs made our communities safer by offering inmates important opportunities for rehabilitation.

The decision to close Kulani also created a drain on the County of Hawai'i's economy. About 75 Department of Public Safety employees lost their jobs when Kulani closed, including both corrections officers and employees who worked in treatment and job training programs. At the same time, local vendors such as food suppliers lost tens of thousands of dollars per month in business because they no longer supplied the prison.

We support this plan to return Kulani to its former use as a minimum security prison with a focus on treatment and job training.

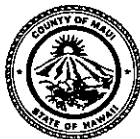
Aloha,

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.maui-county.gov/council

LATE TESTIMONY

March 17, 2011

TO: Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Member

**SUBJECT: HEARING OF MARCH 17, 2011; TESTIMONY IN SUPORT OF SB 1358, S.D. 2,
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require the department of public safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani correctional facility, implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals by 12/31/2011.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

The closure of Kulani was a huge and unexpected hit to the Hawai'i Island community. It bought jobs in Arizona and put our own people out of work. There are many heartbreaking stories of Adult Correctional Officers living in their cars, getting divorced, losing their homes, etc. because of the closure of Kulani.

Kulani was the home to the largest sex offender treatment program in Hawai'i and the most successful sex offender treatment program in the nation.

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. Kulani helped develop strong work ethics and marketable job skills in the individuals who served their sentences there.

CAP has been advocating for the re-opening of Kulani as either a minimum security prison or a wellness/reentry center, both of which are expressed needs of PSD.

Hawai'i can create a model system of rehabilitation and reentry and re-opening of Kulani is crucial to this effort and to fulfill Governor Abercrombie's promise of bringing all our people home.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present supporting testimony on this important measure.

GCB:amm

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 7:50 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: Puakea006@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1358 on 3/17/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/17/2011 8:30:00 AM SB1358

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melita Among
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Puakea006@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2011

Comments:

I support the reopening of Kulani Prison. Inmates currently being housed on the mainland need to return home here in Hawaii. The goal of the prison system is rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Reintegration starts with being here in Hawaii; not being housed in a mainland facility learning from the gang cultures on the mainland. The second reason I support this bill is for our children. The Youth Challenge Program is a great program. However, the location of the formal Kulani Prison is not appropriate for children. Youth Challenge used to be on Oahu, on Barber's Point. That location is much better than Kulani. Children being placed that far away from the rest of society and their families is not a good environment for their development. Also, the high elevation and volcanic emulsions, can be detrimental towards asthmatic children. I have heard of stories of kids running away from that program. If that should happen, they could get hurt because of the distance to the nearest town. My concern here is for the safety of our children and also for the reintegration of Hawaii's offenders back into society. Let's be akamai and care for the keiki of Hawaii and also care about the people of Hawaii. Mahalo.