

**SCR 84**



**SCR 84**  
**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 30, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SCR 84, 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 to 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 2011 Legislative Package, SB986, would create a task force that would fill this gap.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

## galuteria1 - Ikaika

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Testimony: SCR 84, requesting the convening of a task force to report on strategies and resources to reduce recidivism among Native Hawaiians

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 30, 2011  
2:45 pm  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this measure. Native Hawaiians are grossly over-represented in our prison systems. Given OHA's study, the work of this proposed task force will be critical in terms of finding workable solutions. We would recommend that ALU LIKE be part of this task force should it so choose as it has worked in this area for many years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

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*ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS*  
TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

**SCR 84 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK  
FORCE TO REPORT ON STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES  
TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS  
BEFORE THE**

**COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
Wednesday; March 30,2011; 2:45 p.; Rm. 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria, vice chair Ryan and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Soulee Stroud, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here to testify in support of SCR84 Requesting the Convening of a Task Force to Report on Strategies and Resources to Reduce Recidivism Among Native Hawaiians.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is comprised of sixty component clubs in Hawaii and eleven states and the District of Columbia on the continent. Each year we hold an annual convention and conduct several days of business where submitted resolutions are discussed and debated in committees. If they pass out of our committees they are voted upon in plenary session by the House of Delegates.

At our convention of November, 2010 we adopted Resolution #10-23, Requesting that the Hawaii Legislature Convene a Task Force With the Purpose of Producing a Comprehensive Report on Strategies and Resources Needed to Assist Inmates Once Paroled from Prison to Remain Out of Prison.

A recent study of incarcerated Native Hawaiians commissioned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs was a good beginning and we see a Legislative Task Force continuing to study this related issue as an important follow up.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please support this measure.

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