

**SR 71**

**SCR 123**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE RESOLUTION 71/ SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 123  
REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF  
OPENING A WELLNESS CENTER THAT FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY REENTRY  
PROGRAMS NEAR HILO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

by  
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 31, 2011, 2:50 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Resolution 71/ Senate Concurrent Resolution 123 that requests the convening of a task force to consider the feasibility of opening a wellness center that focuses on community reentry programs near Hilo International Airport. PSD recommends that this resolution be held, and that this issue be addressed by the Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC). PSD appreciates the support in our reentry endeavors, and we look forward to future support on our completed comprehensive plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P.O. BOX 1879  
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COMMENTS OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**SR 71/ SCR 123, REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER  
THE FEASIBILITY OF OPENING A WELLNESS CENTER THAT FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY  
REENTRY PROGRAMS NEAR HILO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

March 31, 2011

Aloha Chair Espero, Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this resolution and is open to discussing the opportunity to develop a corrections facility on our lands. We also appreciate that this resolution recognizes the importance of consultation with our beneficiaries in this discussion and planning process by including a representative of our beneficiaries in this proposed task force.

We also offer a friendly suggestion that your committee members consider incorporating the language and intent of SCR 110 (heard by your committee at 2:45 p.m. today) so that the task force proposed under this resolution could also consider the feasibility of a community-based program on Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 30, 2010

2:50 p.m.

Room 224

**SUPPORT - SCR 123/SR 71 - TASK FORCE RE FEASIBILITY OF REENTRY WELLNESS CENTER**

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

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working to promote smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than a decade. We respectfully offer this testimony always mindful that 6,000 Hawai'i individuals are living behind bars with almost 1,800 individuals 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 123/SR 71 requests the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to convene a task force to explore the feasibility of opening a wellness center that focuses on community reentry programs near Hilo International Airport to support the efforts to return Hawai'i inmates from prisons on the U.S. continent.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports exploring the feasibility of a wellness center focused on reentry. This is sorely needed. We also believe, however, that the reentry system must be just that -- a system. Our fragile resources must be expended where they will have the greatest impact. This means gathering accurate data to determine the number of individuals eligible for reentry, the range of programs needed, and the locations needing the most services. It also means mapping out what exists and developing a comprehensive reentry system by filling in the gaps and linking services to get the greatest bang for taxpayer bucks.

We remain hopeful that this administration will work to achieve the promise of Act 8 - the Community Safety Act of 2007, Hawai'i's reentry law. We can reduce the incarcerated population by strengthening our network of community-based services, keeping *our* money circulating in *our* economy, buying jobs for *our* people in a new rehabilitation and reentry economy where we focus on individuals' assets instead of their deficits.

Hawai'i can be a leader in rehabilitation and reentry. Let's do some out-of-the-cell thinking and work on building strong and contributing people who successful transition from institutional to community life because of our comprehensive reentry system. We are Hawai'i - we care for and about each other. We can do this!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
of hawai'i

March 31, 2011

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and  
Military Affairs

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SCR 123/SR 71 Wellness Center  
Hearing: March 31, 2011, 2:50 p.m., Conf. Room 224

Position: SUPPORT

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i supports SCR 123/SR 71 which requests the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to convene a task force to explore the feasibility of opening a wellness center that focuses on community reentry programs near Hilo International Airport to support the efforts to return Hawai'i inmates from prisons on the mainland.

We support exploring the feasibility of a wellness center focused on reentry. Reentry programs are urgently needed and will help reduce recidivism. These programs would also help make reentry from prison life back into the community more successful.

Successful reentry programs reduce recidivism, future criminality, and increase community safety.

We urge you to pass this measure out of committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

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