

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA  
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Joe W. Booker, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

Keith Kamita  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2848 HD2  
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

by

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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of House Bill 2848 HD2. This measure establishes a Wellness Center Task Force which will allow the affected agencies to further study the concept of developing a wellness center by narrowing the potential, viable and ideal location, whether it be at the site formerly used for the Kulani Correctional Facility or another location suited to the goals that will be developed by the Wellness Center Task Force.

PSD is in the process of developing its strategic plan. It is through this process that PSD will develop and address the programmatic needs for Hawaii's offenders, which may include the Pu'uhonua concept. PSD supports this measure as the formation of a Wellness Center Task Force will provide a road map to the successful implementation of the Pu'uhonua concept by networking with subject matter experts in the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666  
Revisor (808) 587-0670  
Fax (808) 587-0681

**LATE**



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Testimony

**HB2848 HD2**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a Wellness Center Task Force within the Legislative Reference Bureau to move forward with the concept of pu'uhonua, or wellness center, and to establish a location for the wellness center on lands owned or controlled by the State, with preference given to the site formerly used as the Kulani Correctional Facility in East Hawaii. As part of the duties assigned by the bill, the Bureau would:

- (1) Have the task force administratively attached to it;
- (2) Provide administrative support to the task force; and
- (3) Assist the task force in developing a plan and making recommendations to move forward the concept of pu'uhonua, or wellness center, and to establish a location for the wellness center on lands owned or controlled by the State, with preference given to the site formerly used as the Kulani correctional facility in East Hawaii

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of the measure, but has concerns relating to the burden that having a task force administratively attached to it and providing administrative support would pose to the Bureau's limited personnel and office supply resources and facilities.

The Bureau relies on only one staff person as its lead administrative support officer and has no conference room facilities under its control. Therefore, providing administrative support such as coordinating the schedules of and communicating with task force members, as well as obtaining conference facilities, will be a challenge.

The Bureau is operating under a budget that is 14% below that of fiscal year 2009-2010. This has entailed considerable constraint on our spending, including printing fewer copies of various publications, maintaining a schedule of reduced subscriptions by our library, deferring equipment purchases, purchasing less paper and office supplies, and eliminating travel unless paid for by other sources. Consequently, if the Bureau were to take on the responsibility of providing administrative support to a task force, an appropriation to cover additional expenses incurred by the Bureau may be necessary.

Having stated these concerns, the Bureau believes a more appropriate role would be for Bureau staff to assist the task force in preparing its report and drafting any proposed legislation it may require. We respectfully request that the measure be amended in this fashion. Furthermore, to allow us to manage our workload effectively and minimize interference with our ability to draft bills for legislators during the busy period prior to the start of session, we would request that the Task Force be directed to transmit a draft of recommendations and any proposed legislation to the Bureau no later than November 1, 2013. This would allow sufficient time for review by the Task Force of a draft of the report and necessary edits and still enable timely completion of the report.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this measure.



the  
**Drug Policy  
Forum**  
of hawaii

**LATE**

*Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993*

February 23, 2012

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

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: HB 2848 HD2 Relating to Public Safety  
Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2012, 11:00 a.m., Room 308

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of HB 2848 HD2 which establishes a Wellness Center Task Force within the Legislative Reference Bureau to forward the concept of pu`uhonua and to establish a center preferably on the site formerly used as the Kulani Correctional Facility.

DPFH supports efforts to address drug use, drug abuse, drug addiction and drug related crimes using public health modalities rather than incarceration. Drug abuse or addiction is often a symptom of a past trauma that needs healing.

The majority of our incarcerated population is Native Hawaiian; culturally appropriate programs are effective in addressing issues of drug abuse and drug addiction. Establishing a wellness center also focuses on addiction as a health issue, using healing methods rather than pure incarceration. Treatment of addiction is more effective than incarceration; and also less expensive.

We urge the committee to pass this important bill that looks for more effective alternatives than we currently have in our criminal justice system. A pu`uhonua will focus efforts not on incarceration, but on healing individuals so that they can take responsibility for their actions and restore their relationships with families and communities.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:47 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lorrainekohn@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2848 on 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2848

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lorraine Kohn

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [lorrainekohn@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainekohn@gmail.com)

Submitted on: 2/22/2012

### Comments:

Supporting wellness, what a great concept to save dollars and preserve health for the people of Hawaii- wonderful! Of course I am NOT in favor of shipping our criminals off island as they are also citizens with families and they need healing too...but getting the puuhonua concept started would be wonderful!

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 6:13 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kaleopono@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2848 on 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2848

Conference room: 308  
Affirmation position: Support  
Affirmation will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kaleopono Norris  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kaleopono@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kaleopono@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

I fully support initiatives such as HB2848 HD2 that aim to treat typically very distressed law breakers with compassion and aloha; condemning the victimization of others, but also according the violator respect as a fellow human being. The wellness center idea, grounded in the Hawaiian cultural viewpoint of pu'uhonua, makes a lot of sense and if done well, can significantly reduce social disruption in our communities. Aloha.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** hanohano@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2848 on 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2848

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Faye P. Hanohano  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [hanohano@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:hanohano@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:  
Kako'o loa!!

**LATE TESTIMONY**

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 7:45 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** hanohano3-Kahikina  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2848 on 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/23/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2848

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kahikina Kaawaloa  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [hanohano3@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:hanohano3@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:  
Kako'o loa

**LATE TESTIMONY**



**LATE TESTIMONY**

Uncle Joe Testimony on HB2848 Fin

From: uncle joe [puuhonua2@gmail.com]  
Sent: wednesday, February 15, 2012 10:40 AM  
To: manahan2 - Karen  
Subject: IN FAVOR OF HB2848

IN FAVOR OF HB2848

ALOHA KAKAHIKA AND GOOD MORNING M CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. MY NAME RENWICK VALENTINE ILI ILIPUNA TASSILL ALSO KNOWN AS UNCLE JOE.

MAHALO PIHA WE ARE THANKFUL TO YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF HB2848 TO RE-ESTABLISH THE CULTURAL PRACTICE AT THE PUUHONUA WHICH INCLUDES,

PULE, THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER, TO BRING ONE INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE AKUA SO ONE WILL BE REMINDED THAT ALL IS POSSIBLE WITH THE ALMIGHTY.

HOOPONOPONO THE PRACTICE OF HEALING. TO MAKE RIGHT TO BRING TOGETHER ALL INVOLVED TO HEAL FEELINGS OF ANGER AND HURT BOUGHT ON BY A NUMBER OF NEGATIVE ACTS AND WRONG DOINGS AGAINST ANOTHER AND IN MOST CASES FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS.

MIHI, TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS, AND THRU A SERIES OF PRAYER ONE MAY BE FORGIVEN. THIS IS COMPLETE WHEN FORGIVENESS IS GIVEN IN RETURN.

ALOHA AINA, TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THE LAND WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS,

PART 1. MAHI AI, TO STEWARD, TO NURTURE, CARE AND CULTIVATE THE LAND, TO CARE FOR THAT WHICH YOU HAVE CULTIVATED, TO BRING IT TO BEAR FRUIT AND RIPEN, TO REAP AND HARVEST THAT FRUIT IN ORDER FOR ONE TO CONSUME AND ENJOY THE FRUIT OF ONE'S LABOR.

PART 2 LAAU LAPAAU  
IS THE SAME PROCESS OF MAHI AI, HOWEVER THE HEALING IS FOR THE BODY, IF ONE HAS A STRONG BODY ONE IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES AND TEMPTATIONS WHEN ONE IS TEMPTED TO REPEAT THE HURT AND WRONG.

IN RETROSPECT THE METAPHOR OR KAUNA OF THIS IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE SEED TAKEN TO ITS MATURITY TO FRUIT AND THEN THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

THE PROCESS IS THE HEALING OF THE SPIRIT AND BODY SO ONE CAN ENJOY AND CELEBRATE WITH THEM HE OR SHE HAS OFFENDED THE HAPPINESS OF RE-ENTRY.

ALOHA AINA OR CARING FOR THE LAND AND EVERYTHING WITHIN IT IS LIKE CARING FOR ONESELF AND EVERYONE WITH AND AROUND YOU

LOMILOMI TO LAY AND MASSAGE HEALING HANDS ONTO ONE'S BODY IN ORDER TO RELEASE HURT, PAIN, ANGER AND HEAVY FEELINGS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN BOUGHT ON BY OVERWORK, PHYSICAL INJURY TO ONESELF OR IN SOME CASES BY HURTING OTHERS, THE HEAVY FEELINGS WITHIN ONESELF, KAUMAHA.

ALOHA I KEKAHI I KEKAHI, TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER THE LOVE FOR FELLOW MAN AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF OTHERS, TOGETHERNESS.

THIS MAY BE BUT A FEW PARTS OF THE HEALING PROCESS THAT IS WITHIN THE PUUHONUA WHICH I AM AWARE OF AND I AM SURE THERE ARE OTHERS, DIFFERENT LEVELS DEPENDENT UPON THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM.

AGAIN AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THIS IS THE KAUNA, METAPHOR FROM THE SEED TO THE HARVEST. WHAT THE IMPORTANT PART OF THIS IS THE TIME SPENT WITH THE PROCESS, THE CARE AND CULTIVATION LIKE THE SEED FROM THE TIME OF CONVICTION TO THE TIME OF RELEASING. AS ONE NURTURES AND CARES FOR THE SEED THERE ARE GOOD TIMES WHEN THE WEATHER IS GOOD AND THE GROWTH IS GOOD, THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE WEATHER IS BAD AND THE GROWTH IS STUNTED. VERY MUCH LIKE THE PROCESS WITHIN THE

Uncle Joe Testimony on HB2848 Fin

PUUHONUA, IN SOME CASES THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES BUT IN MOST CASES THE END RESULT IS FAVORABLE.

BECAUSE OF THE HIGH RATE OF INDIVIDUALS RETURNING TO PRISON WITH THE ESCALATING COST OF INCARCERATION, IT IS PROOF THAT INCARCERATION AND PRISONS DON'T WORK, THESE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT HAS BEEN WASTED OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES IS SHAMEFUL. THESE MONEY'S COULD BE BETTER INVESTED IN OUR FUTURE THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.

MAHALO NUI

Sent from my iPad