



**HB 313 HD1**  
**RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
House Committee on Culture and the Arts

February 16, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on HB 313 HD1. This bill establishes a pilot program within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) that assigns select, non-violent inmates on a work detail that restores historical sites selected by OHA. The bill also appropriates funds for this program.

OHA has very strong reservations about the means utilized to fund this program since general fund resources for this program appear to offset or reduce general fund resources allocated to OHA for its programs. This bill inappropriately seeks to reduce OHA's general funds in the amount of the DPS appropriation while at the same time asking OHA to play a major role in the project. We also note that the reference to HRS §10-31 is confusing because that provision relates to OHA's authority to issue revenue bonds. HRS §10-13 might be the intended reference, but even that reference leaves unclear which OHA general funds would be affected.

OHA recognizes the value of culturally appropriate programs that assist incarcerated individuals with rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. In the past, OHA has supported cultural programming for incarcerated individuals (or pa'ahao) and reintegration efforts. Important service providers such as MEOBest, T.J. Mahoneys, and Hina Mauka have all received OHA grant resources previously to support Native Hawaiian pa'ahao.

OHA's recent report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," further confirms that culturally appropriate programs, like the one suggested in this bill, help pa'ahao rehabilitate and re-enter the community.

This bill does not expand resources for pa'ahao, it simply reallocates existing resources away from OHA to DPS. Since more services are needed, we strongly encourage the Committee to fund this program without incorporating the offset to OHA general revenue resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this legislation.

TESTIMONY

February 15, 2011

TO: Representative Faye P. Honohono, Chair  
And members of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee

FROM: Kristine G. DeLong

RE: HB313 HD1 Relating to Corrections

Chair Faye Honohono and members of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee, my name is Kristine G. DeLong I am working towards my BSW in social work and I recently started my practicum at the Women's Community Correctional Center. I am also a member of BSWO, the Bachelors of Social Work Organization at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in SUPPORT of HB313 HD1 Relating to Corrections.

The purpose of HB313 HD1 is to establish a pilot program within the Department of Public Safety that assigns select, non-violent inmates on a work detail that restores historical sites selected by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This bill will appropriate funds to this program. I think this bill should be passed because it will not only benefit our community, but it will give the inmates something to do. This would benefit the community because improving our historical sites would make our Hawaiian population feel better represented and that their culture is an important part of Hawaii. Also, improving our historical sites could increase tourism, and bring more visitors to Hawaii. This in turn, would benefit our strained economy.

I strongly support HB313 HD1 Relating to Corrections and urge your **favorable support** of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.