

LATE

Testimony by:

Jolene Molinaro

SB1357

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

9:20 am

Rm 211

In Support of SB 1357 Relating to Public Safety/ Kulani Correctional Facility

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jolene Molinaro, and I would like to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1357. I am currently attending UH Manoa's school of social work for my master's degree. I am also an ex-offender so I know how important it is for a person who is released from prison to have a strong support network, which hopefully begins while still incarcerated. This is much easier to achieve when the inmate has access to their family members and friends who reside in the community in which the inmate will be released to. Successful reentry depends up on the smoothest transition as possible and being incarcerated thousands of miles away from any familiar contacts and family members alienates prisoners in many ways. It is vital that we keep Hawaii's inmates at home where their families, children and support systems reside to ensure the best chances for their successful re-entry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolene Molinaro

LATE

A the Drug Policy
Action Group

A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i

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

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pamela Lichty, MPH
President

DATE: March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m., room 211

RE: S.B. 1357, S.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY – **IN STRONG
SUPPORT**

Aloha Senators Ige, Kidani and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm testifying in support of this measure on behalf of the Drug Policy Action Group.

The bill under consideration today, which would create a master plan for returning Hawai'i inmates from facilities on the U.S. mainland, is urgent and timely.

Such a plan needs to be put into place to help effectuate the stated goals of Governor Abercrombie to return our prisoners home. This will serve to reconnect them with their families, ready them for their release and ease the costs of incarceration on the mainland.

We urge the Committee to pass out this important measure. Thank you for hearing this bill and thank you for permitting us to testify today.