

SB 1358

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Requires the department of public safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani correctional facility, implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals. Report to legislature.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director
Administration

Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1358
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

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

Tuesday, February 15, 2011; 2:45PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports SB 1358. The PSD has a well-defined need for correctional facilities to provide for the custodial care and program needs of offenders with an emphasis on re-entry needs.

The Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) will provide for the custodial care and program needs such as vocational training, treatment modalities and educational services. This minimum-security facility is integral to the sequential phasing for offenders re-entering the community.

KCF would provide PSD the ability to return upwards of two hundred offenders from Arizona. This translates into approximately 80 jobs and \$4,745,000 in revenues for the State of Hawaii.

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1358
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RICK CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR, HAWAII YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMIES
February 15, 2011

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

I am Rick Campbell, Director of the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academies.

I am testifying on Senate Bill 1358.

The Department of Defense has some concerns with this bill. The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Public Safety to make plans to reopen the Kulani Correctional Facility no later than January 17, 2012. However, the concern of the Department of Defense is that there is no provision to identify a plan to relocate or otherwise ensure the continued operation of the Kulani Youth Challenge Academy on the Island of Hawaii.

The Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy is a five and a half month residential program designed to provide opportunities for at-risk/non-traditional students to learn life skills and become productive, responsible, and successful citizens while working toward their high school diplomas. The Youth Challenge Academy has been helping our youth since 1996 and its primary location has been at Kalaeloa. Following sixteen months of work, planning preparation, and training, the first Youth Challenge Academy class to enter the Kulani facility

started January 25, 2011 thereby making two sister Youth Challenge Academy programs in Hawaii.

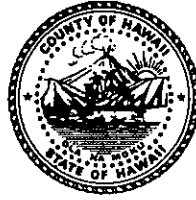
The success of the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy is well known nationwide with almost 3000 graduates and approximately 1900 receiving their high school diplomas. The majority of youth, that successfully complete the program, will never find themselves incarcerated in one of our correctional facilities thereby making the Youth Challenge Program invaluable in preventing situations that will lead to increased prison populations. However, the real success in the program is the incalculable benefits provided to our community by enabling at risk youth to realize that they can make a positive difference in their own lives, those of their families and friends, and the lives of the Community around them. The benefits of the Youth Challenge Academy are perhaps one of the greatest uses of State and Federal taxpayer dollars. As such, every effort should be made to keep both programs of the Youth Challenge Academy operating.

The Department's primary concern with the proposed bill is the absence of a plan to ensure the continued operation of the Youth Challenge Program at Kulani. It is the Department's position that the proposed bill should be amended to require that the Department of Public Safety include, as part of its plans, the continued operation, including relocation if necessary, of the Youth Challenge Academy on the Island of Hawaii.

Finally, should the decision be made to return Kulani to the Department of Public Safety as a correctional facility to support the Administration's intent to return inmates from the mainland, the Department of Defense is more than willing to assess alternate sites on the island of Hawaii, but would probably submit a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to meet the standards of a Youth Challenge Academy.

Chair Espero, this concludes my testimony. Are there any questions?

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 15, 2011

Honorable Will Espero, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on
Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Espero and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1358, which instructs the state Department of Public Safety to plan for the reopening of the Kulani Correctional Facility to house minimum security prisoners.

The decision to close Kulani Correctional Facility in 2009 reduced prisoners' opportunities for rehabilitation by eliminating treatment and job training programs that had been housed at Kulani. Those programs made our communities safer by offering inmates important opportunities for rehabilitation.

The decision to close Kulani also created a drain on the County of Hawai'i's economy. About 75 Department of Public Safety employees lost their jobs when Kulani closed, including both corrections officers and employees who worked in treatment and job training programs. At the same time, local vendors such as food suppliers lost tens of thousands of dollars per month in business because they no longer supplied the prison.

We support this plan to return Kulani to its former use as a minimum security prison with a focus on treatment and job training.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William P. Kenoi".

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

Council Chair
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Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

February 14, 2011

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Member

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1358, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure requires the department of public safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani Correctional Facility, implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. A classification study commissioned by the department of public safety found that the majority of Hawai'i's incarcerated population is nonviolent (84% women; 63% men).
2. The same study found that 48% of the women and 23% of the men incarcerated are community custody, meaning, by the department's own definition, that they could be in the community with little or no supervision.
3. Reopening Kulani would provide sorely needed minimum security beds and top quality sex offender treatment.
4. Reopening Kulani could return 200 men from AZ immediately (30% of the individuals in AZ are community custody...that's more than 500 individuals).
5. Kulani was the most successful reentry facility because of its many programs that helped the men develop marketable job skills, while being responsible for completing their required programming.
6. Hawai'i's incarcerated persons who serve their incarceration sentence in Hawai'i have more potential for rehabilitation when they can live in familiar surroundings and be close to relatives.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

GCB:amm

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Phone/E-mail: (808) 533-3454/ kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 15, 2011

Room 224

2:45 p.m.

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 1358 - REOPENING KULANI

<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 of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on justice issues in Hawai'i for more than a decade. We respectfully offer our testimony always being mindful that Hawai'i has some 6,000 people behind bars including approximately 1,800 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones and homes - the ancestral homes for a disproportionate Native Hawaiians.

SB 1358 requires the department of public safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani correctional facility implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals and report to legislature.

The haphazard and ill-conceived closure of Kulani Correctional Facility in November 2009 revealed the incompetence of the Lingle-Aiona administration. Kulani was one of the best facilities in Hawai'i's correctional system.

The closure of Kulani was a huge and unexpected blow to the Hawai'i Island community. It not only wreaked havoc on the correctional system, but on Hawai'i Island families as well. In essence, in this economic crisis, we bought jobs in Arizona and put our own people out of work. There are many stories of Adult Correctional Officers living in their cars, getting divorced, losing their homes, etc.

This thoughtless move also jeopardized the community in that Kulani was also the home to the largest sex offender treatment program in Hawai'i AND the most successful sex offender treatment program in the nation, with less than a 2% recidivism rate since 1988. PSD promised the legislature that sex offender treatment programming would continue 'uninterrupted'. This did not happen. The men enrolled in this nationally renowned program waited 6 months for a new program to resume.

Were some of these men released without completing sex offender treatment?

Kulani also was the most successful reentry facility in that each individual there had to work and then manage the completion of their required programming in the evening. It developed good work ethics and developed marketable job skills in the individuals who served their sentences there.

Many Adult Correctional Officers who worked at Kulani have said that they didn't really like the intensive programming at the facility at first, but came to appreciate it when they saw former inmates in the community being productive and contributing members of the community.

Community Alliance on Prisons has been advocating for the re-opening of Kulani as either a minimum security prison or a wellness/reentry center, both of which are expressed needs of PSD.

In trying to crunch numbers for the reopening, here are some calculations done by the former staff of the prison:

Facility only operations	\$ 4,738,696
Corrections Program Services	\$ 1,597,671
Health Care	\$ 580,327
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,916,694

Cost per inmate at KCF:

An operational acceptable population of 210 inmates

$$\begin{aligned} \$ 6,916,694 \div 210 &= \$32,937 \text{ per inmate per year} \\ &\div 365 = \$90.24 \text{ per inmate per day} \end{aligned}$$

The reason that Kulani's day rate was reported as higher is because the Lingle-Aiona administration stopped transferring individuals to Kulani and at closure it had only 122 incarcerated individuals living there.

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports the reopening of Kulani and we stand ready to help the department develop a plan for reopening and the transfer of individuals back to Kulani to fulfill the promise of Act 8 - the Community Safety Act of 2007 - Hawai'i's reentry law.

Hawai'i can create a model system of rehabilitation and reentry and re-opening Kulani is crucial to this effort and to fulfill Governor Abercrombie's promise of bringing our entire people home.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts with the committee



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

February 15, 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 Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB 1358 Relating to Public Safety
Hearing: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Room 224

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of SB 1358 Relating to Public Safety. SB 1358 requires the department of public safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani Correctional Facility implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals and report to legislature.

Hawai'i spends approximately \$60 million on out-of-state prisons. In light of those expenditures, the closure of Kulani was ill-advised. Instead of propping up our own economy, we exported the jobs at Kulani to Arizona and we continue to invest in mainland states instead of our own.

Kulani was also the largest sex offender treatment program in Hawai'i and the most successful sex offender treatment program in the nation, with less than a 2% recidivism rate since 1988. Why close such a successful facility?

Kulani also was the most successful reentry facility in that each individual there had to work and then manage the completion of their required programming in the evening. It developed good work ethics and developed marketable job skills in the individuals who served their sentences there. Again, why close such a successful facility?

The re-opening of Kulani would hasten the return of those housed in mainland facilities.

We urge the committee to require the reopening of Kulani. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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Website: www.dpfhi.org

National Association of Reformed Criminals

Andy Botts

1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1388

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 15, 2011

2:45 PM

Room 224

SB 1358

STRONG SUPPORT

Kulani Honor camp was never a problematic facility and is a perfect environment to house offenders away from the community. It will also help to alleviate the costs of housing offenders on the mainland, and/or the endless costs of another facility in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Andy Botts



CARRIE ANN SHIROTA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1839 Wells Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone: 808-269-3858

PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVT OPERATIONS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011

Room 224 at 2:45pm

PGMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

We must focus more attention on the conditions of incarcerated person... To put people behind walls and bars and do little or nothing to change them is to win a battle but lose a war...

It is wrong. It is expensive. It is stupid.

Chief Justice Warren Burger

SUPPORT: SB 1358 Reopen Kulani Correctional Facility

Aloha Chair Espero and Members of the Committees.

I am writing in support of SB 1358 that requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a plan to reopen the Kulani correctional facility, implement transfers, and house newly sentenced individuals.

I speak from my experience as a former Deputy Public Defender and Director of MEO's Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST) Reintegration Program, and as a member of Community Alliance on Prisons. During the past ten years, I have advocated for alternatives to mass incarceration policies that have proven effective in reducing crime, and providing men, women and youth involved in the criminal justice system with the education, training, counseling, and treatment necessary to turn their lives around.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Kulani offered a wide range of educational courses and vocational training to assist the men to prepare for their successful reentry into the community
- Kulani provided Substance Abuse Level I and II treatment
- Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) was a working facility where all inmates were assigned jobs. In other words, the incarcerated population did not remain idle, and used their time wisely to better their lives.
- The incarcerated population at Kulani gave back to the community. For example, in 5 years, Kulani inmates provided \$1.7 million in community service projects for Hilo

- Kulani was the primary location for the department's sex offender treatment program and has been nationally recognized for its efficacy. National statistics suggest that 11% of sex offenders who receive treatment in prison will commit a new sex crime within two years of their release. Since 1988, fewer than 2% of Hawai'i sex offenders who received treatment have returned to prison for new sex crimes.
- There is a shortage of minimum security prison beds in Hawai'i. The re-opening of Kulani will provide a minimum security facility with intensive programming services. Despite the fact that PSD's own policies state, "each inmate should be classified at the least restrictive capacity consistent with security needs, many men currently classified as "minimum" custody have been transferred to out-of-state private prisons at a higher (medium) security level. Research has also shown that over-classification actually increases recidivism. (*Source: Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics at Yale University, January 2004 - DOES PRISON HARDEN INMATES? A DISCONTINUITY-BASED APPROACH* M. Keith Chen and Jesse M. Shapiro)
- According to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism's formula, for every dollar that Hawai'i ships out, we lose \$3 in economic activity. It is unconscionable for our State to continue to transfer prisoners to CCA private prisons, when Kulani could be re-opened. The reopening of Kulani would provide jobs, and the circulation of \$66 million in Hawai'i's economy. In multiplier terms, this would circulate the equivalent of \$198 million in our economy.
- The reopening of Kulani is consistent with the Governor's pledge to return our out-of-state prisoner population home. Kulani would provide beds for 160 men to return home, AND receive the necessary education, training, and treatment to help them better prepare for their transition, and become contributing members of our community.

In summary, the re-opening of Kulani as a program intensive facility, or conversion to a "pu'uhonua" model, would contribute to a more safe and healthy community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

Carrie Ann Shirota

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 2:04 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1358 on 2/15/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/15/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1358

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorothy Cornell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

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

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

STRONG SUPPORT

SB 1358

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

My name is Ryan Berney and I am in Strong Support of SB 1358. Considering the promise made by the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, in regards to bringing home all our people that we incarcerated abroad, reopening Kulani would provide sorely needed minimum security beds. In fact, reopening Kulani could facilitate the immediate return of 200 men from Arizona. Furthermore, the reopening of Kulani will provide vital programs that are integral to saving the State money long-term, helping the individuals to live healthy positive crime-free lives afterwards, and making the community safer. With Kulani having had one of the most successful sex offender treatment programs in the country, in the interest of the community and our safety, the reopening of Kulani must happen.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Ryan Berney

Robert K. Merce
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
January 25, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

2:45 PM

Room 224

SB 1358 – Relating to Public Safety – Kulani Correctional Facility; Reopening

SUPPORT SB 1358

PGMTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

I am a retired member of the Hawaii State Bar. Before retiring, my practice included the representation of prison inmates on a wide array of issues. This made me aware of the many ways in which our justice system is failing inmates and the community, and since retiring I have decided to try to do something about it.

I strongly support SB 1358. Governor Abercrombie has said that he want to bring all prisoners incarcerated on mainland back home. Returning the Kulani Correctional Facility to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) would create badly needed space for returning inmates. The findings contained in SB 1328 also speak to the reasons why the facility should be returned to DPS.

Thank you.

Testimony by:

Jolene Molinaro

SB1358

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

2:45 pm

Rm 224

In Support of SB 1358 Relating to Public Safety/ Kulani Correctional Facility

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

My name is Jolene Molinaro, and I would like to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1358 regarding the reopening of Kulani Correctional Facility. As an ex-offender, 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 requires the smoothest transition as possible and being incarcerated thousands of miles away from any familiar contacts and family members alienates prisoners in many ways. Since the facility already exists, it would be a waste and a shame not to utilize it to keep Hawaii's inmates at home where their children and support systems reside.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolene Molinaro

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 15, 2011
2:45 p.m.
Room 224

STRONG SUPPORT- SB 1358 – RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY – KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; REOPENING PGM, WAM

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

My name is Diana Bethel, and I am a concerned citizen writing in strong support of SB 1358, which requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a plan to reopen, implement transfers to, and house newly sentenced individuals at the Kulani Correctional Facility. SB 1358 also requires that the department of public safety to prepare a report for the Legislature.

The closure of the Kulani Correctional Facility defies rational explanation. This was a correctional facility nationally acclaimed for his sex offender treatment and successful work skills development programs. It offered the kinds of community reentry programs that help the offender learn marketable skills with which to reenter society and keep from going back to prison. As is becoming increasingly clear from criminal justice research on model programs around the country, this focus on community reentry programs translates into lower costs. It decreases recidivism and ultimately contributes to the safety of the larger community.

It is not too late to reverse the unwise and arbitrary transfer of Kulani lands to the State Department of Defense. Most important for reopening the Kulani Correctional Facility is the return of the facility itself and the parking lot below the facility.

Reopening the facility will provide much needed programs and minimum security beds, especially now that inmates housed on the mainland will be returning to Hawaii. Our state criminal justice system is much less effective and much the poorer without the Kulani Correctional Facility.

Please support SB 1358.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel
Honolulu, Hawaii

Erin Welsh
73-1142 Oluolu Street
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 325-5322

February 14, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

VIA: email

STRONG SUPPORT for SB 1358 - REOPENING KULANI

Good Morning Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

I am the mother of a prisoner who is currently being held at Saguaro in Arizona. He is a non-violent drug addict who got involved with ice, a very familiar story in these islands. He has been in prison for almost three years and has gone from Hilo to Halawa to Arizona back to Hilo, back to Halawa and now back to Arizona. He has a 5 year old daughter who misses him very much and wishes she could visit him.

We had hoped that when Michael got close to parole, he would be sent to Kulani. It had the reputation of being a great transitional place with the work release program. He is a journeyman carpenter and he was hoping to get transferred to Kulani so he could work off some of his debt to society, building things for the county or state. It would have been the perfect place for him. He would be doing something positive towards redeeming himself. I could have driven his daughter from Kona to visit him. By closing Kulani, that hope is gone, and more of our people are sent to the mainland. It made no sense at all to close such a good program.

Thank you so much for reading my thoughts. I hope you pass this bill. It is very important to the families of the incarcerated.

Sincerely,

Erin Welsh

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 10:30 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: kaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1358 on 2/15/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/15/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1358

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kanoelani Medeiros
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

Aloha,
I feel that reopening Kulani would provide sorely needed minimum security beds and top quality sex offender treatment.
Mahalo

From: Emy Furusaki [maukalani78@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 4:34 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: SB1358

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Saturday February 12, 2011

Room 229

10:00 a.m.

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 1358 – REOPENING KULANI

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and committee members:

The closure of the Kulani facility and the transfer of the property to the state department of defense was a sham because of the many lives the programs, at that facility, saved from recidivism. It served as a minimum security prison that was work and program intensive with the best sex offender treatment program in the nation.

There is no comparable facility available in the entire state to provide sorely needed minimum security beds and top quality sex offender treatment.

In addition, because of the unavailability of the programs, many inmates who were to enter the program are now serving longer sentences because they cannot be released until they finish the required programs.

With the budget shortfall, reopening Kulani could save the state a large amount of funds if we could cut back on the number of inmates serving prison time at a reported cost of approximately \$137/day to incarcerate an individual in Hawai'i approximately \$70/day to incarcerate a Hawai'i individual in AZ and \$5/day to supervise an individual on parole

It is urgent that we move quickly to get the Kulani lands related to the facility and parking lot below the facility back from the state department of defense to the public safety department.

The community will welcome back the facility for all the public works and other functions they performed while the inmates were housed at Kulani.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. You can contact me at 455-9136 if there are any questions.

Aloha,

E. Funakoshi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 9:45 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: bobleehnl@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1358 on 2/15/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 2/15/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1358

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Lee
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bobleehnl@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2011

Comments:

The State of Hawaii can not afford to run Kulani Prison. If this measure is passed, the planning must include the suitable relocation of the Big Island Youth Challenge Academy so we do not lose \$2M in federal funding to help our at risk youth and drop outs.