



SB2249 SD1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 28, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB2249 SD1, which allows committed persons to sell approved products and crafts.

OHA's 2010 report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System" and feedback from the community indicate that high fines are a barrier for pa`ahao reentering society. Similarly, a lack of programs and training also creates barriers. This bill provides pa`ahao with a needed opportunity to develop skills, express themselves, and pay down debts incurred as a result of their crimes.

OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2249 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. David Ige, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2249 SD1 - SALE OF INMATE CRAFTS

Aloha Chair Ige, 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 promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered, always being mindful that 6,000 Hawai'i individuals are living behind bars, including 1,800 men who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2249 SD1 allows committed persons to create and place for sale approved products and crafts; allocates 25% of proceeds to fund rehabilitation programs and 25% to the crime victim compensation special fund; requires department of public safety to study other states' practices on the making and sale of arts and crafts by inmates and report to the 2013 legislature.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this bill. Most prisons around the world allow incarcerated individuals to sell their crafts. They realize that a busy incarcerated person is easier to manage and that the sale of their handicrafts increases the self-esteem of the incarcerated.

Since so many of our incarcerated people come from struggling families, selling crafts would allow the individual to have some funds without burdening their families for the necessary items like toiletries and needed hygiene products.

We urge the committee to pass this bill!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2249 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:06:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2249

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: elaine funakoshi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB2249.

This bill would benefit the rehabilitation programs, the crime victim compensation special fund and the inmates, especially in giving them a worthiness feeling of creating something that someone would buy. It's so encouraging that there should be an improvement in behavior, and share with their families.

Thank you so much for hearing this bill and considering passing out a win-win type bill.

Mahalao and Aloha,
elaine funakoshi