



SB2253
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 SB2253, which establishes a two-year parole pilot program based on the HOPE probation program.

OHA's 2010 report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," feedback from the community, and research from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative indicate that Hawai'i is in dire need of smarter programs that rehabilitate pa`ahao and make our communities safer. Extending the innovation of HOPE probation into the world of parole will help to accomplish these goals.

OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2253. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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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 2253 - HOPE PAROLE

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 2253 establishes a two-year parole pilot program for no more than twenty inmates to be subject to high-intensity parole supervision. Makes an appropriation for the program.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure in the hope (pun intended!) that Hawai'i can experience similar outcomes to the HOPE probation program. Of course, we have yet to see if the HOPE effect is persistent when individuals are no longer part of the program, but we remain open to trying new and innovative ways to gain compliance of individuals who have broken the law and are consistently non-compliant.

There are, however, some things we would like to mention to the committee:

1. The Hawai'i Paroling Authority is its own agency that is administratively attached to PSD, so the bill should reflect that.
2. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative addresses the length of parole and one of our concerns about HOPE Probation is that after some violations, the person is sent to prison to serve their entire sentence. This seems to be contrary to the suggestions of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.
3. Special parole officers would have to be trained in the HOPE-style, this would require funding and the hiring of new parole officers to handle their current workload, which is twice that of other jurisdictions.

We thank the committees for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2253 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:07:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2253

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 support SB2253 which establishes a two-year parole pilot program. This program will give twenty inmates the opportunity to be put through a high-intensity parole supervision program which has had a high success rate.

Some inmates need such a program to succeed in their rehabilitation so I ask the committee to pass this bill and fund this program so specially trained parole officers can be hired/

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of the HOPE program.

Mahalo and Aloha,
elaine funakoshi