

From: [takai1-Jennifer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ["uncle joe"](#)
Subject: SB 3016, In Support, June Toguchi-Tassill
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:56:53 AM

Hawaii State Senate Session of 2012
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday February 28, 2012
9:00 A.M. Conference Room 211
SB3016 In Support

To: Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and the members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha,

My name is June Toguchi-Tassill and I stand in full support of SB3016. I am supporting the efforts of many others with the struggle to replace the prison system that cost the people of the Hawaii so much money with the Puuhonua system, a wellness process that has worked for over hundreds of years. In the past decade or so, there has been a number of individuals and organizations that have tried to pass legislation concerning this issue. I ask you to please consider the passage of Senate Bill 3016, so it can continue it's journey to help our State and the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony.

ALOHA,
June Toguchi-Tassill

June Toguchi-Tassill
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From: [takai1-Jennifer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ["uncle joe"](#)
Subject: SB03016, In Support, Renwick Uncle Joe Tassill
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:56:48 AM

Hawaii State Senate Session of 2012
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday February 27, 2012
9:00 A.M. Conference Room 211
SB3016 In Support

To: Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and the members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Renwick Tassill also known to many as Uncle Joe Tassill and I stand in full support of SB3016. As one who has joined the efforts of many others with the struggle over the past decade or so, I ask you to pass SB3016 so it can continue it's journey to help our State and the people address;

1: The high outrageous, overwhelming cost of incarceration with very little or no rehabilitation and or preparation for reentry into our communities.

2: The misuse of millions of dollars to lock up offenders with minor offenses that need psychological or medical attention instead.

3: Often times the individual has done wrong to family and friend, that during the correction period, since the family and friend is not included, that it does not help the individual with the reentry process.

4: That with the present process of crime and punishment without a good working reentry process, we are only adding more rising cost to our efforts when the individual returns to prison.

5: All of this leads to escalating cost, adds to a high rate of recidivism. As this trend continues, we are stealing from the future to pay for our present failures, we are cheating our children out of a decent noteworthy education.

Let me share with you what I know about the Puuhonua System. The Puuhonua is a place of healing that include the following Hawaiian Cultural Practices,

PULE: THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER, TO BRING ONE INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE AKUA SO ONE WILL BE REMINDED THAT ALL IS POSSIBLE WITH THE ALMIGHTY.

HOOPONOPONO: THE PRACTICE OF HEALING. TO MAKE RIGHT TO BRING TOGETHER ALL INVOLVED TO HEAL FEELINGS OF ANGER AND HURT BOUGHT ON BY A NUMBERS OF NEGATIVE ACTS AND WRONG

DOINGS AGAINST ANOTHER AND IN MOST CASES FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS.

MIHI: TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS, AND THRU A SERIES OF PRAYER ONE MAY BE FORGIVEN. THIS IS COMPLETE WHEN FORGIVENESS IS GIVEN IN RETURN.

ALOHA AINA: TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THE LAND WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS,

PART 1. MAHI AI: TO STEWARD, TO NURTURE, CARE AND CULTIVATE THE LAND, TO CARE FOR THAT WHICH YOU HAVE CULTIVATED, TO BRING IT TO BEAR FRUIT AND RIPEN, TO REAP AND HARVEST THAT FRUIT IN ORDER FOR ONE TO CONSUME AND ENJOY THE FRUIT OF ONES LABOR.

PART 2. LAAU LAPAAU: THE SAME PROCESS OF MAHI AI, HOWEVER THE HEALING IS FOR THE BODY, IF ONE HAS A STRONG BODY ONE IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES AND TEMPTATIONS WHEN ONE IS TEMPTED TO REPEAT THE HURT AND WRONG TO ONESELF.

ALOHA AINA: OR CARING FOR THE LAND AND EVERYTHING WITHIN IT IS LIKE CARING FOR ONESELF AND EVERYONE WITH AND OR AROUND ONESELF.

LOMILOMI: TO LAY AND MASSAGE SOMEONE WITH HEALING HANDS ONTO ONES BODY IN ORDER TO RELEASE HURT, PAIN, ANGER AND HEAVY FEELINGS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN BOUGHT ON BY OVERWORK, PHYSICAL INJURY TO ONESELF OR IN SOME CASES BY HURTING OTHERS, THE HEAVY BURDEN FEELINGS WITHIN ONESELF, KAUMAHA.

ALOHA I KEKAHI I KEKAHI: TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER THE LOVE FOR FELLOW MAN AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF OTHERS, TOGETHERNESS.

This may be but a few parts of the healing process that is within the Puuhonua which I am aware of and I am sure there are others, different levels dependent upon the severity of the problem.

Again, as I have said before, this is the kauna, metaphor from the seed through a series of steps to the harvest. The important part of this is the time spent with the process, the care and cultivation like the seed. From the time of conviction when entering the Puuhonua to the time of release. As one nurtures and cares for oneself there are good times when the process is good and working the healing is good, then there are times when the process is not working, the healing is prolonged and more time is necessary, in some cases there are difficulties however in most cases the end result is very favorable.

Because of the high rate of individuals returning to prison with the escalating cost of incarceration, it is proof that incarceration and prisons don't work, these hundreds of millions of dollars that has been wasted over the past three decades is shameful.

In retrospect, the metaphor or kauna, is the individual is the seed and the process is the healing of the spirit and body so one can enjoy and celebrate with the one he or she has offended, the happiness of re-entry.

I hope and pray that this helps you understand that The Puuhonua is a place where, if a wrongdoer had

entered, he or she could be cleansed and or healed of the wrongdoing by the Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners, and upon completion of ones healing he or she has earned a certificate of achievement and would be allowed to reenter the community.

Again I ask you to help our State, our communities, our families and mostly our future the children by passing SB3016 and let us move into a new era in addressing the high cost of incarceration and replace it with the Puuhonua System that worked in the past and start a wellness program that works.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony in favor of this measure.

Uncle Joe Tassill

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB3016 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 8:16:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB3016

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:
I pray for this follow through, it is needed.