

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Joe W. Booker, Jr.
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3016 SD 2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

by

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

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 309

Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 3016 SD2, and we believe that this program may be appropriate as part of the implementation of Justice Reinvestment Initiatives (JRI). The goal of JRI is to manage and allocate criminal justice populations by spending more cost-effectively, thereby generating cost-savings that can be reinvested through the development of alternative responses to crime without jeopardizing public safety to the community at large.

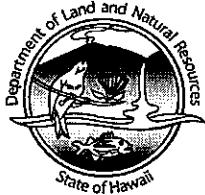
The future of the Kulani Correctional Facility has yet to be determined. PSD is in the process of developing its strategic plan, which will include the orderly development of statewide correctional facilities. It is through this process that PSD will develop and address the programmatic needs for Hawaii's offenders, which may include Pu'uhoonua or a wellness center based on Hawaiian cultural practices. The Hawaii Community

Correctional Center on the Big Island is involved in working with community needs through community service projects, inmate work release, and furlough programs that are parallel to the goals and objectives of this measure.

PSD looks forward to working with 'Ohana Ho'opakele and other restorative justice groups as well as the public land development corporation to assessment the best location and methodology to implement Pu'uhonua or a wellness center based on Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the well-being of person, family, and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3016, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Senate Bill 3016, Senate Draft 2 proposes to require the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to plan for a model wellness center that employs native Hawaiian cultural practices on State lands, giving preference to the site formerly used as the Kulani Correctional Facility. This bill also proposes to create within PSD a work release pilot program on the Island of Hawaii to allow incarcerated persons on the Island of Hawaii to work on community projects that benefit the local community and the State. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments on the proposal and defers to PSD on the feasibility and details of plans for such a model wellness center and work release program.

1. The Department notes that the former Kulani Correctional Facility is surrounded by lands currently in the Natural Areas Reserve System (NARS) and other forestry lands.
2. Approximately 279.76 acres, constituting the footprint of the former Kulani Correctional Facility, is currently being used by the Department of Defense, under a revocable permit, for the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy (HYCA).
3. The Department enjoys an ongoing and productive association with HYCA and is working together to develop a natural resource management curriculum that may be incorporated into their program.
4. If HYCA elects to relocate their campus to another location, the Department prefers to develop the facilities at Kulani, including the existing structures of the former correctional facility, into a world class environmental, educational, and outdoor recreation center with guest accommodations for overnight or longer stays.

5. The Department is willing to collaborate with PSD to identify potential community projects on the Island of Hawaii that may benefit from inclusion in the work release pilot program.



SB3016 SD2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

March 15, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB3016 SD2, which urges the Department of Public Safety to report on the possibility of using the former Kulani prison facility as a pu`uhonua or wellness center.

OHA's 2010 report, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," and the recently completed study by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative indicate that there is a clear need for smart justice solutions that include rehabilitation.

The closing of Kulani was a shock to the justice community. It was done on short notice, and it shut down one of the few effective sex offender treatment programs in the state. The closing of the facility should be explained in a public forum before further resources are committed to this facility. Such an explanation would build the community's trust and lay a foundation for a healthy relationship between the community and its proposed new neighbor.

OHA urges the committees to PASS SB3016 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phones/E-Mail: (808) 533-3454, (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 3016 SD2 - ESTABLISHING PU`UHONUA/WELLNESS CENTER

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen 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 3016 SD2 requires PSD to plan for a model wellness center that employs native Hawaiian cultural practices on state land and to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2013 legislative session. Creates a work release pilot program on the Big Island to allow certain incarcerated individuals to work on community projects that benefit the local community and the State. Repeals pilot program on 6/30/15.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this bill. The majority of our incarcerated population is Native Hawaiian and establishing a Pu`uhonua/wellness center acknowledges that using traditional practices is a way that will resonate with and restore an individual. We respectfully ask that you eliminate the date June 30, 2015 sine Pu`uhonua is not a program, but a place - a place of wellness and healing.

Healing an individual is more effective than punishment and many misinterpret healing as not holding the individual accountable. This is not true. Ho`oponopono (to make right) is based on accepting responsibility and helping to rebuild and restore relationships. Using practices that connect individuals to the `aina, their `ohana, and the larger community is vital to what this session of the legislature strives for...strengthening families and reducing recidivism.

`Ohana Ho`opakele, led by Kupuna Sam Kaleleiki as well as other kupauna and other concerned community members has been working on developing Pu`uhonua/wellness centers for more than a decade. We applaud their perseverance and their commitment to heal the people and the land. Uncle Joe Tassel has also been a huge proponent for healing our people.

We are pleased to see this bill moving and we urge you, as policymakers, to encourage the department to work on real alternatives to incarceration and reentry that have been used and proven. Our host culture holds many answers to healing our community and it is about time we listen to their wisdom! This bill is being watched by the world as the cites below indicate (and this is not all of them!).

MEDIA HITS ON PU`UHONUA BILLS – HB 2848; SB 3016

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed-15617990#.Tz7ZRiCS2V1>
http://argus-press.com/news/national/article_96b45584-af5f-5b90-be4e-44a4b91ed694.html
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20120215/hi-xgr-hawaiian-wellness/>
<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9STT2N02.htm>
http://www.court.us/idar7281919/hawaiian_culture_based_wellness_center_proposed_msnbc_com.htm
<http://www.usnews.net/story.php?rid=203510836>

ALABAMA:

<http://www.waff.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

ALASKA:

<http://www.adn.com/2012/02/14/2317990/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

ARIZONA:

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

ARKANSAS:

<http://www.kait8.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

CALIFORNIA:

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_19967380
<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/02/14/4264902/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>
<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/feb/14/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed/?ap>
<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2012/02/14/1948731/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>
<http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/02/14/2722640/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

CONNECTICUT:

<http://www.wfsb.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

DELAWARE:

<http://www.wboc.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

FLORIDA:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/02/15/2642202/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>
<http://www.newschief.com/article/20120215/APA/1202150538>
<http://www.cfnews13.com/article/news/ap/february/382592/Hawaiian-culturebased-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.nbc-2.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.wopular.com/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed-0>

GEORGIA:

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
http://article.wn.com/view/2012/02/15/Hawaiian_culturebased_wellness_center_proposed_w/

HAWAII:

<http://prgnewshawaii.wordpress.com/2012/02/15/hawaii-island-news-15-february-2012-through-16-february-2012/>

<http://www.hawaiifreepress.com/ArticlesDailyNews/tabid/65/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/6138/February-16-2012-News-Read.aspx>
<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2012/02/15/video-puuhonua-at-kulani-or-world-class-recreation-center/>
<http://bigislandnews.wordpress.com/2012/02/15/hawaii-island-news-15-february-2012-through-16-february-2012/>
<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed/GB4YCsBU8EqMaUJA0cwfmg.csp>

ILLINOIS:

<http://www.wrex.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.wandtv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

INDIANA:

<http://www.fox28.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.wthr.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.kwqc.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

IOWA:

<http://www.woi-tv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.whbf.com/category/7075/about-cbs4>

MASSACHUSETTS

<http://www.wgem.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
http://articles.boston.com/2012-02-15/news/31063873_1_wellness-center-culture-crime-prevention

MICHIGAN:

<http://www.9and10news.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

MINNESOTA:

<http://kstp.com/news/stories/S2497086.shtml?cat=1>

MISSISSIPPI:

<http://www.sunherald.com/2012/02/15/3753619/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>
<http://www.wlbt.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.wdam.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

MISSOURI

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/wire/article/457523/>
<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/15/3430138/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

NEBRASKA:

http://www.doaneline.com/news/national/article_935a69d1-3b00-5fec-a332-e80f26e10af3.html

NEVADA:

<http://www.ktvn.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/feb/14/hi-xgr-hawaiian-wellness/?hpap>

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HI_XGR_HAWAIIAN_WELLNESS?SITE=NHCON&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

NEW MEXICO

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2497087.shtml?cat=600>

NEW YORK:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed-1.3530895>

NORTH CAROLINA:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HI_XGR_HAWAIIAN_WELLNESS?SITE=WNCNTV&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HI_XGR_HAWAIIAN_WELLNESS?SITE=WSPATV&SECTION=NATIONAL&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20120215/APA/1202150538>

NORTH DAKOTA:

<http://www.kxnet.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

OHIO:

<http://www.hometownstations.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

OREGON:

<http://www.kptv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

PENNSYLVANIA:

<http://www.koamtv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

RHODE ISLAND:

<http://www.abc6.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

SOUTH CAROLINA:

<http://www.wect.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.wistv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2012/02/15/2661436/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

TENNESSEE:

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

TEXAS

<http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S2497092.shtml?cat=10159>

<http://www.kxxv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/02/15/3735579/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

<http://www.kcbd.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/02/15/3735579/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

VERMONT:

<http://www.wcax.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.fox44now.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

VIRGINIA:

http://www.gettyburgtimes.com/news/national/article_b0bfa359-0df7-5124-b6e4-51f4558a24ea.html

<http://www.wset.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.wvva.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/lawmakers-are-looking-into-a-hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-to-rehabilitate-prisoners/2012/02/15/gIQANaQzER_story.html

WASHINGTON STATE:

<http://www.theolympian.com/2012/02/14/1990707/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness.html>

<http://www.onenewspage.com/n/Front+Page/74r3t9eb0/Hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed.htm>

<http://www.i4u.com/2012/02/cathy-mcmorris-rogers/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

WISCONSIN:

<http://www.wbay.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

<http://www.wxow.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

WYOMING:

<http://www.kotatv.com/story/16937796/hawaiian-culture-based-wellness-center-proposed>

We urge the committee to pass this important bill. We need to find alternative means to reintegrate our people who have lost their way. Establishing pu`uhonua is a wonderful way to rebuild our `ohana and communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts on SB 3016 SD2.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB 3016 SD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY pre-trial public safety to plan for wellness center that uses native Hawaiian cultural practices on state land including a work release program to community projects.

- HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS: Representative Henry Aquino, Chair; Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
- HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair; Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
- Thursday, March 15, 2012: 9:00 a.m.
- Conference Room 309

HSAC Supports SB3016:

Good Morning Chair Aquino, Chair Rhoads; Vice Chair Cullen, Vice Chair Rhoads; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, a hui of about 20 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

Native Hawaiians have the highest incarceration rate (41%) and death rate of all ethnicities in Hawai'i, which makes Hawaiians the most imprisoned and fastest dying race in their own homeland. Native Hawaiians have one of the highest statistics for other concerns as well, such as obesity (38%), smokers (34%), incomes below 25,000 (40%), unemployment (8%), and no health insurance (17%).¹

While we have improved our cultural competence in programs over recent years, we can and must do more to engage Native Hawaiians in a culturally appropriate way that benefits them. Statistics prove that the effort could benefit Hawaiians because 83% report that they are proud of their ethnic heritage and 78% believe it is important to live and practice Hawaiian culture on a daily basis. Moreover, 73% report an interest in developing their Hawaiian language.¹

Culture matters to Native Hawaiians, so it is important that we develop relevant policies, plans and treatments to reflect their cultural beliefs as a means to achieve the highest outcomes. It will matter even more for future generations because population trends indicate part-Hawaiians are the fastest growing ethnicity in the islands such that they may reach 1 million by 2050.

When we talk story with open hearts in a respectful way, we foster hope that we can better serve our host culture and bring to a close any racial health disparities.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

1. *Native Hawaiians: Present Trends, Future Hopes*: Dr. Kimo Alameda, Director of AMHD's Office of Multicultural Services: 2005



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawai'i

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

March 15, 2012

To: Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

RE: SB 3016 SD2 Relating to Public Safety
Hearing: March 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 309

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of SB 3016 SD2 Relating to Public Safety which requires the Department of Public Safety to plan for a model wellness center that employs native Hawaiian cultural practices on state land and to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2013 legislative session.

The majority of our incarcerated population is Native Hawaiian; culturally appropriate programs are effective in addressing issues of drug abuse and drug addiction. Establishing a wellness center also focuses on addiction as a health issue, using healing methods rather than pure incarceration. Treatment of addiction and focusing on healing people is more effective than incarceration; and also less expensive.

We urge the committee to pass this important bill that looks for more effective alternatives than we currently have in our criminal justice system. Establishing pu`uhonua, places of healing, can offer a place for people to not only rebuild themselves and their lives, but also help people to rebuild and restore relationships, which are essential to successful reentry into communities and also essential to reducing recidivism.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.



Committee: Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 3016, SD2, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads and Members of the Committees on Public Safety & Military Affairs and Labor & Public Employment:

The ACLU of Hawaii supports S.B. 3016 and every effort to develop programs and policies that are more cost-efficient and more effective at reducing recidivism than incarceration. Every effort should be made to provide Hawaii's inmates with the support and services they need to become productive and responsible community members.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2012; 9:00 AM; Conference Room 309, State Capitol

SUPPORT SB 3016, SD2

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Requires PSD to plan for a model wellness center that employs native Hawaiian cultural practices on state land and to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2013 legislative session. Creates a work release pilot program on the Big Island to allow certain incarcerated individuals to work on community projects that benefit the local community and the State. Repeals pilot program on 6/30/15. (SD2)

Aloha Representatives! My name is Samuel Kaleleiki, Jr., President of Ohana Hoopakele, an organization dedicated to rescuing our *pa`ahao* or incarcerated brothers and sisters in prison. Our vision is to build a *Pu`uhonua* or a Wellness Center that heals rather than punishes. We have been sending spiritual advisors to lead our *pa`ahao* in the Makahiki ceremonies in the past at Diamondback prison in Watonga, Oklahoma and from February 7-12, 2012 at Saguaro prison in Eloy, Arizona and at FCI Safford in Safford, Arizona.

We first want to commend Senator Galuteria who re-introduced this bill to this session of the State legislature and the key role of Mr. Renwick Valentine Ili`ilipuna "Uncle Joe" Tassill. Our members of Ohana Ho`opakele began by opposing the building of new prisons on Hawai`i Island because it was incarcerating mainly Kanaka Maoli. However, we realized that we couldn't just be opposed to something but had to find solutions. After research on what would heal our Kanaka Maoli, we realized that the solution lay in what the Kanaka Maoli did a long time ago. The model for healing was the *Pu`uhonua* or wellness center where *ho`oponopono* and *aloha aina* were the principal values. Our research led to some funding from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs which has resulted in a Feasibility Study of a *Pu`uhonua* written by consultant Ms. Chelle Shand Pahinui. We also completed with the help of funding from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a complete needs assessment complete with a survey conducted among our *pa`ahao*, ex-*pa`ahao*, families of *pa`ahao*, cultural practitioners and the general public. It is time to test this model. It cannot be done without the support of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Hawaii. Even within the State of Hawaii Public Prosecutors office, there has been a long-time task force on restorative justice. A prison system built upon the philosophy of punishment has proved NOT to be a solution.

The premises at Kulani Correctional Facility are almost perfect for a *Pu`uhonua* or a wellness center. There is adequate land there for a model *Pu`uhonua* even while continuing a correctional facility. The infrastructure is more than adequate.

The staff has been involved in healing for many years. Notable among this was the program initiated by Warden Peter McDonald modeled after the Life Stand program of Neal Wagatsuma at the Kauai Correctional Center. ACOs like Mr. Ikaika Dombriguez were trained by Kupuna Sam Lono in the cultural and spiritual practices of the ancient Kanaka Maoli traditions.

There are other lands under the control of the Department of Public Safety that would also make ideal locations for a Pu`uhonua. One site in East Hawai`i is Field 33 which is just above the zoo in Hilo on Stainback Highway. The work release program included in this bill can have *Pa`ahao* from Hale Nani begin clearing this site immediately for a Pu`uhonua.

Our organization has been developing the curriculum for the Pu`uhonua by sending spiritual leaders to lead our *pa`ahao* in the opening and closing Makahiki ceremonies every year since 2004 at Diamondback Correctional Facility in Watonga, OK and continuing to the present when the men were transferred to Saguaro Correctional Facility in Eloy, AZ. In the second week of February we sent Mr. Kini Kaleilani Burke to lead a Makahiki Closing Ceremony at Saguaro Correctional Facility at Eloy, AZ and for the first time at FCI Safford at Safford, AZ.

If you would take the time to visit our website at www.ohanahoopakele.org, you will see a Kahea (Call) to Support Pu`uhonua as an Alternative to Prison. The Kahea reads, "We support the mission of `Ohana Ho`opakele (To Rescue the Family) in establishing Pu`uhonua (Decentralized Wellness Centers – residential and non-residential) on all islands as an alternative to building more prisons. Pu`uhonua are places open to all, not just Kanaka Maoli, where the traditional ho`oponopono process of making right will be used to help heal individuals, families, and communities. We believe Pu`uhonua centers are for the good of all Hawai`i's people and can provide real hope in saving money, reducing recidivism, crime prevention, and long-term positive change." There are now 554 people who have signed on to this Kahea. They include Kanaka Maoli leaders, cultural practitioners, university professors, social workers, religious leaders, lawyers, one county councilman and even two *pa`ahao* leaders in Saguaro Correctional Facility.

With the assistance of Kumu Richard and Lynette Paglinawan Ohana Ho`opakele has continued to conduct ho`oponopono training sessions and have recently met with leadership at Hale Nani Correctional Facility in East Hawai`i to begin the process of conducting ho`oponopono sessions with *pa`ahao* and family members on a voluntary basis even before their release from incarceration. This is a specific step in working together with the Department of Public Safety to work toward wellness employing Kanaka Maoli cultural practices. A group committed to the practice of *ho`oponopono* meets monthly at the Hilo Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center with the Paglinawans.

Our Governor has promised to bring back the 1,700 or so *pa`ahao* from Arizona. This is an opportune time to plan for a model Pu`uhonua that employs Kanaka Maoli cultural practices. The news of a possible Pu`uhonua in Hawaii has been

carried widely by the press in the U.S.A. We believe this is happening because people are looking for alternatives to incarceration in prison. This is an opportunity for Hawaii to take the lead in finding a better solution than to building more prisons in Hawaii or to send our *pa`ahao* to be incarcerated in private prisons based on making a profit.

We commend you representatives for passing HB 2848 which is essentially the same bill as that before you. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of our members of Ohana Ho`opakele and on behalf of our *pa`ahao* who have been and are presently incarcerated both here in Hawaii and in Arizona. We humbly request that you require the Department of Public Safety to work together with Ohana Ho`opakele, "Uncle Joe" Tassill and the Community Alliance on Prisons among other restorative justice groups to develop this plan for a Pu`uhonua. You can contact me by my cell at 808-937-7193. I would be more than glad to fly over to Honolulu to meet the members of your committees to answer questions. Mahalo!

PBMtestimony

From: Jim Albertini [ja@malu-aina.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:25 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Subject: strong support for SB 3016 SD2

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 309

SB 3016 SD2 PU`UHONUA - Referred to **PBM**, WLO/HAW, FIN

Our organization strongly supports this important bill to establish a model Pu'uhonua as an alternative to prison. Pu'uhonua should be established on all islands. The KAHEA below now signed by more than 550 community leaders summarizes reasons why. The list of signers is available on ohanahoopakele.org

Kahea (Call) to Support Pu'uhonua as an Alternative to Prison

We support the mission of 'Ohana Ho'opakele (To Rescue the Family) in establishing Pu'uhonua (Decentralized Wellness Centers - residential and non-residential) on all islands as an alternative to building more prisons. Pu'uhonua are places open to all, not just Kanaka Maoli, where the traditional ho'opono'ono process of making right will be used to help heal individuals, families, and communities. We believe Pu'uhonua centers are for the good of **all** Hawai'i's people and can provide real hope in saving money,

reducing recidivism, crime prevention, and **long-term positive change.**

--

Jim Albertini, president,

Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box AB Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone
808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org Visit us on the web at www.malu-aina.org

PBMtestimony

From: Na Maka o ka 'Aina [namaka@interpac.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:35 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Subject: SB 3016 SD2

aloha mai,

we produced a documentary on the family living at Ka Lae (South Point) on Hawai'i island who were evicted by DHHL a few years ago.

the family had proposed a cultural center at Ka Lae that would include education, agriculture, tourism, fishing, a recycling center and a pu'uhonua for prisoners and troubled families.

we think this is an idea whose time has come.

let's make use of empty lands to help troubled/criminal people regain their souls.

there is no better healer or educator than the 'aina.

take a look at these scenes at South Point and see if you agree this land can nurture righteousness.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vaT2jHy9ts&feature=plcp&context=C42e846dVDvjVQa1PpcFMRnrjzinAUv7XMTvy5j1iyAHU1MTkobAs%3D>

mahalo for passing this bill.

~Joan Lander

Na Maka o ka `Aina
PO Box 29
Na'alehu, Hawai'i 96772-0029

PBMtestimony

From: Robert Duerr [surf77@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:35 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Subject: I support the SB 3016 SD2 PU`UHONUA

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Dear Representatives,

I support the

SB 3016 SD2 PU`UHONUA - Referred to **PBM, WLO/HAW, FIN**

I support Ho`oponopono (to make right) based on accepting responsibility and helping to rebuild and restore relationships. Help the community learn through proven Hawaiian cultural practices.

Mahalo
bob duerr

99 Honolii
Hilo Hawaii 96720

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:05 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: ewelsh@metcalconstruction.com
Subject: Testimony for SB3016 on 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM SB3016

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erin Welsh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ewelsh@metcalconstruction.com
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure. I believe this Wellness Center will help both the community and the incarcerated. This is a win/win measure. The entire community is behind this. Please pass this measure. Thank you.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:17 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: mattrifkin28@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB3016 on 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM SB3016

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Rifkin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mattrifkin28@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

It is time for a new approach to re-integrating prisoners into the community. Given that a large number of native Hawaiians are in the system, it seems a wise choice to have a program with cultural understanding and practices. It is better to have them here than in Arizona in privately run, for-profit prisons.

There needs to be community input, but this seems a program that should be supported and given a chance to succeed.

PBMtestimony

From: Cory (Martha) Harden [mh@interpac.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:37 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Subject: support SB 3016 SD2 PU`UHONUA

Dear Legislators,

Please support SB 3016 SD2 for a Pu`uhonua. After working in human services for 25 years, I would agree with the basis of this bill: perpetrators need healing as much as the victims. Healing is more effective than punishment. Ho`oponopono (to make right) is based on accepting responsibility and helping to rebuild and restore relationships, using practices that connect individuals to the `aina, their `ohana, and the larger community. Over a hundred media outlets have picked up this story.

Mahalo,
Cory Harden
PO Box 10265
Hilo, Hawai'i 96721
mh@interpac.net
808-968-8965

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:55 AM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: kaniusilva@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB3016 on 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Pu'uhonuaTestimonyMarch2012.doc

Testimony for PBM 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM SB3016

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Palmira Barretto-Silva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaniusilva@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

This Pu'uhonua plan is not meant to be included in a prison program. No! It is an alternate place, a healing and wellness center that is culturally Hawaiian. The State should work with Ohana Ho'opakele, Uncle Joe Tassill, and the Community Alliance on Prisons in order to implement this very important, vitally needed program.

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:15 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: Puuhonua2@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB3016 on 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM SB3016

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Revwick Uncle Joe Tassill
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Puuhonua2@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

TESTIMONY

Aloha and good morning

Mr. Chairman and the members of the Publis Safety Committe, My name is Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill also know as Uncle Joe. I thank you for allowing me to sit in your presence and present my testimony. I am in favor of SB3016 and the reestablishing of the Puuhonua System. The following is a major part of the practice of making things right.

my testimony SB3016 / HB2848
37 STATES & WASHINGTON DC

you don't care how much I know
until you know how much I care

MAHALO PIHA WE ARE THANKFUL TO YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO TESTFY IN FAVOR OF SB3016 TO RE-ESTABLISH THE CULTURAL PRACTICE AT THE PUUHONUA WHICH INCLUDES,

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

IS 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.

IN RETROSPECT THE METAPHOR OR KAUNA OF THIS IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE SEED AND THE PROCESS IS THE HEALING OF THE SPIRIT AND BODY SO ONE CAN ENJOY AND CELEBRATE WITH THEM HE OR SHE HAS OFFENDED THE HAPPINESS OF RE-ENTRY.

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

LOMILOMI TO LAY AND MASSAGE HEALING HANDS ONTO ONE'S 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 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 TO THE HARVEST. WHAT THE IMPORTANT PART OF THIS IS THE TIME SPENT WITH THE PROCESS, THE CARE AND CULTIVATION LIKE THE SEED FROM THE TIME OF CONVICTION TO THE TIME OF RELEASING. AS ONE NURTURES AND CARES FOR THE SEED THERE ARE GOOD TIMES WHEN THE WEATHER IS GOOD AND THE GROWTH IS GOOD, THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE WEATHER IS BAD AND THE GROWTH IS STUNTED. VERY MUCH LIKE THE PROCESS WITHIN THE PUUHONUA, IN SOME CASES THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES BUT IN MOST CASES THE END RESULT IS 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.

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH A NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS. ONE THAT COMES TO MIND IS MAY YEARS AS A COUNSELOR AT AN A.L.C. HALE O HOOPONOPONO. A DROP OUT SCHOOL DEDICATED TO ADDRESS AND HELP TEENAGE DROP OUTS, DRUNKS, DRUGGIES AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES. IT TOOK THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS. KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS / BISHOP ESTATES, STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION, THE STATE JUVENILE COURTS, KONA NATIONAL PARKS (PUUHONUA O HOONAUNAU) AND DIFFERENT PRIVATE SEGMENTS OF THE KONA COMMUNITY ALONG WITH A HAND FULL OF KONA RESIDENTS NAMELY, ROBERT MATTHEWS, LINCOLN AHLU BOTH WHO HAVE PASSED ON, DIXON ENOS AND MYSELF.

WE FOUND THE MONEY INVESTED THERE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN RESHAPING THE LIVES OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN THEN AND I BELIEVE THE MONEY WE WASTE TODAY WOULD BE BETTER INVESTED WITH REHABILITATION AND EVEN BETTER FOR THE EDUCATION OF OUR FUTURE CHILDREN.

WHEN THE PUUHONUA SYSTEM IS RE ESTABLISHED, WE CAN SAY THAT WE ARE A PART OF THE MANY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT HAS RETURNED TO THEIR CULTURAL PRACTICES. WE CAN AND WILL BE THE SHOWCASE OF OUR STATE OUR NATION AND THE WORLD WITH MAKING THINGS RIGHT AND LIFE BETTER FOR ALL.

Mahalo for allowing me to be here and share my mana'o, my inner most feelings and passion of the issue.

You may not care of how much I know Until you know about how much I care

Mahalo,
Uncle Joe