



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

LATE

March 30, 2011

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

Re: SB 48 SD1 HD1 Relating to Corrections
Hearing: March 30, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Conf. Room 308

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in strong support of SB 48 SD1 HD1 Relating to Corrections. The bill amends Chapter 353 to clarify that certain criteria should be used in considering the transfer of an inmate.

Transfers should be systematically planned, they should be transparent, they should not be haphazard nor should they give the impression that they are retaliatory. Good business practices and common sense mandate a plan establishing criteria for transfer inside and outside of Hawai'i.

Maintaining contact and relationships with family members can motivate successful transition from prison back into the community. Transferring inmates and disrupting those important relationships can make maintaining those ties more difficult.

Transfers should further the individual's rehabilitation and reentry plan. Other jurisdictions, including Arizona, Washington, California, and Alaska have established transfer criteria.

In my role with DPFH, I have had inquiries from family members as to how the decision to transfer inmates is made. It would be beneficial to those family members to have clear criteria so that they understand what is happening. Transparency would help everyone.

Please pass this measure as it would be good public policy for the operations of the department, for those incarcerated and for their families. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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