



HB1056
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
House Committee on Public Safety

February 7, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1056, which expands the use of restorative reentry circles for pa‘ahao and victims seeking reconciliation.

In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. Since then, OHA has administered the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force (NHJTF), which was tasked by the Legislature to address this multi-faceted issue. A copy of the NHJTF 2012 legislative report and related materials are available at: www.oha.org/nativehawaiianjusticetaskforce.

This bill furthers recommendation F.1. of the NHJTF report: “The State should recognize and support community and grassroots efforts that promote indigenous cultural practice models demonstrated to be successful in Hawai‘i or elsewhere.”

As written, the restorative reentry circles pilot project is a very specific type of program. For some inmates, a specific culturally based restorative justice program like ho‘oponopono may be more effective and that should be considered when looking for a provider for these services.

In conclusion, there is a need for more re-entry and reintegration program for pa‘ahao, and this bill will help reach that goal. Therefore, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HB1056. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.