



**HB218 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO THE CORRECTIONS POPULATION MANAGEMENT
COMMISSION**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 25, 2013

9:10 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** HB218 HD1 SD1, which is a bill in OHA's 2013 Legislative Package. This bill continues the work of the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force (Act 170, 2011) by adding two members to the Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC), which we hope will lead to the development of appropriate and effective cultural programs.

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 would further the findings and recommendations of the NHJTF report. Foremost, this bill would allow the continuation of the vital interagency relationships between OHA and other state agencies that started with the NHJTF. The CPMC is an interagency body whose primary function is to address overcrowding and reentry issues in Hawai'i's criminal justice system. Secondly, as a member of CPMC, a Native Hawaiian cultural expert could assist and inform agencies to develop appropriate and effective cultural programs that are responsive to the unique needs of pa'ahao (prisoners).

This bill will not require an appropriation of funds or the hiring of new employees.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HB218 HD1 SD1. 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

Monday, March 25, 2013

9:10 a.m.

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 218 HD1, SD1 – Corrections Population Mgmt. Commission

Aloha Chair Ige Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 218 HD1, SD1 adds the OHA administrator and a member of the public, who is knowledgeable about issues relating to the criminal justice system and has substantial experience or expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian practices, to the corrections population management commission.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure.

It is no secret that Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in our criminal justice system and receive disparate treatment at almost every stage. It is, however, a great shame that this has been allowed to occur in the land of Aloha.

Therefore, having OHA and a cultural practitioner represented on the CPMC is a good idea and can provide a currently absent voice and missing piece towards make the Commission more robust, meaningful and relevant to Hawai'i's correctional crisis.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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HB218

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2013 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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