



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

Testimony of President Soulee Stroud



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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

#### HB 218 HD1 RE: TO THE CORRECTIONS POPULATION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Thursday, February 7, 2013; 9:00am; Room 309

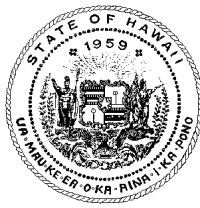
Aloha Chairman Aquino, Vice Chair Ing and members of the House committee on Public Safety. I am Soulee Stroud, President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here to support House Bill 218HD1 that will increase the Corrections Population Management Commission by two more persons – the administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and a member of the public. Amendments to the bill have not caused any change in our position to support.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) is currently comprised of sixty nine component clubs in Hawaii and fifteen states on the continent. The first civic club was organized in 1918 by Prince Kuhio and a group of prominent Hawaiian men when Kuhio was a Delegate to the US Congress. Kuhio recognized the need for Native Hawaiians to become more involved in the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Act then before the Congress, and to further become engaged in the intricacies of federal and local government.

The AHCC Board of Directors met on January 19, 2013 and the package of measures introduced into the legislature by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs was discussed. The AHCC Board supports House Bill 218HD1 as an attempt to ameliorate the problems involving the high percentage of Hawaiians and Native Hawaiians that are incarcerated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Contact: [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**TED SAKAI**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

**Martha Torney**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Keith Kamita**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 218 HD1  
RELATING TO  
THE CORRECTIONS POPULATION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
by  
Ted Sakai, Interim Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Representative Kaniela Ing, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 7, 2013; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill 218 HD1, relating to the Corrections Population Management Commission (CPMC), which adds two new commission members to represent the Native Hawaiian community. This measure is a recommendation of the Native Hawaii Justice Task Force (Task Force).

In 2010, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) produced a report entitled *The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System* which concluded that Native Hawaiians are overrepresented at every stage of the criminal justice system. The same conclusion had been reached in earlier studies on Native Hawaiians and the criminal justice system (Kassebaum, 1981 and 1994).

In response to the report's findings, Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011, established the Task Force to recommend policies and strategies to "reduce or prevent individuals' unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice system." The Task Force has reported its findings and recommendations to the 2013 Hawaii State Legislature.

During the course of its work, the Task Force held Pae 'Aina Summits across the State in order to engage the Native Hawaiian Community and the community at large in

discussions of the 2010 OHA report findings. Those in attendance often addressed the historic social and economic context that contributes to the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. Poverty, educational achievement, employment opportunities, substance abuse, and mental illness experienced by Native Hawaiian's were seen as contributing factors. Many testified that the focus of incarceration should be on rehabilitation and preparing offenders for their successful return to the community, using Native Hawaiian culture and values as the vehicle to provide programs and services.

The purpose of this measure is to ensure the active voice of the Native Hawaiian community is heard when addressing criminal justice policies and programs. The Task Force recommends this is best achieved by expanding the membership of the CPMC through the addition of the OHA administrator and a member of the public knowledgeable about the criminal justice system and who possesses expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian practices.

The CPMC is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature and appropriate authorities concerning a broad array of criminal justice issues, including sentencing policy, pre-trial release, intermediate punishments and alternatives to incarceration, and probation, corrections, and parole programs.

The Department concurs with the recommendation of the Task Force and requests your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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

House Committee on Public Safety

February 7, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Room 309

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** HB218 HD1, 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](http://www.oha.org/nativehawaiianjusticetaskforce)

This bill is necessary to 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).

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HB218 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.