



**HCR173**  
**ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO EXPAND  
COMMUNITY DRUG TREATMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR  
NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS AND MOVE LOW-RISK OFFENDERS INTO  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THEIR PATHWAYS TO  
INCARCERATION.**

House Committee on Public Safety

March 28, 2013

11:00 a.m.

Room 309

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR173, which is a house concurrent resolution that would expand community drug treatment and mental health 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 resolution would further recommendation G of the NHJTF report. This series of recommendations calls for the increased use of programming that addresses the source of criminal behavior. This often comes down to drug and mental health treatment. Proper community programs, rather than just incarceration, may help to reduce recidivism.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HCR173. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 28, 2013

11:00 a.m.

Room 309

## SUPPORT FOR HCR 173 – More Community-Based Drug Treatment and Mental Health Programs

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing and Members of the Committee!

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.

HCR173 encourages the department of public safety to expand community drug treatment and mental health programs for nonviolent offenders and move low-risk offenders into community programs that directly address their pathways to incarceration.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this resolution. Incarcerating low-risk lawbreakers has proven to be expensive and ineffective.

For every \$1 spent on drug treatment in the community, you save approximately \$18. Substance abuse treatment provided in the community is more cost-effective than imprisonment. Individuals with substance abuse histories compose a large portion of the prison population. Substance use/abuse plays a role in the commission of certain crimes. Treatment delivered in the community is one of the most cost-effective ways to prevent such crimes.<sup>1</sup>

Mental health litigation has established the legal right to treatment in custodial facilities—for pretrial detainees as well as sentenced inmates. Among its benefits, good mental health treatment can reduce

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<sup>1</sup> Aos, Steve, Polly Phipps, Robert Barnoski, and Roxanne Lieb. 2001. The comparative costs and benefits of programs to reduce crime. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/costbenefit.pdf>

security risks by minimizing the symptoms of mental illness, thereby decreasing potential disruptions to jail routines and injuries to staff and detainees. The problems jails experience in connection with mentally ill detainees are associated with the absence of criminal justice policies, procedures, and standards specifically addressed to this group of offenders. Deficiencies in training, communication, and resources result from viewing the jail in isolation, rather than as an integral part of a criminal justice system (that includes the police, the courts, defense attorneys, and prosecutors) with linkages to mental health and other human services based in the greater community.<sup>2,3</sup>

Increasing investment in community-based treatment, improving diversion from prison and jail, and ensuring that those leaving prison have adequate care, all will reduce the financial burden of imprisoning community members suffering with a mental illness.

Unless we start directly addressing an individual's pathway to crime, which can ultimately lead to incarceration, we will never solve our correctional crisis. Let's do what works; what is fair and just. The research supports this. **Red** states support this. It is time for ostensibly **blue** Hawai'i to get on board and do what works!

This is also part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative implementation. Let's stop wasting money and creating a huge criminal underclass by directly addressing the reason folks break the law. One solution is more community based drug treatment and mental programs!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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<sup>2</sup> Statement of Harley G. Lappin, Director, Bureau of Prisons before U.S. Sentencing Commission, Regional Hearing on the State of Federal Sentencing, Austin Texas, November 20, 2009  
<http://www.ussc.gov/AGENDAS/20091119/Lappin.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Providing Services for Jail Inmates with Mental Disorders, NIJ Research in Brief, Travis, Jeremy, and January, 1997. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles/162207.txt> <sup>34</sup>The High Budgetary Cost of Incarceration, John Schmitt, Kris Warner, and Sarika Gupta, June 2010, Center for Economic and Policy Research.  
<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/incarceration-2010-06.pdf>

**ing2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 11:43 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** sherrianwitt@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR173 on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM

**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sherrian witt	Witt Counseling Service	Support	No

Comments: As the strength of a society is measured by its most vulnerable population this bill is of the utmost importance. According to recent research 1 out of every 5 people in our country suffer from some kind of mental illness. Yet the importance of supporting citizens in their plight is largely ignored. Substance abuse is ruining the families in our state and rarely has a family not been impacted by substance abuse in one way or another. Substance abuse and mental illness knows no economic status but tears families apart whether they are millionaires or live on the street. We in Hawaii believe in the foundation of the family and know that making assistance easily accessible and without fear or shame could help our children to grow up in families free from the nightmare that substance abuse and mental illness delivers to them. By addressing these issues in a compassionate and caring way we can save our society financial problems in the long run as less people in the court system, less social services workers, and a happy more secure future with healthy mental outlooks. Let us make an effort to thwart the insidiousness of these diseases and return health to us all as we all are impacted by each other. Let us support this bill to make tomorrows Hawaii prosperous and healthy a model for the world to emulate.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 9:18 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** hokuokekai50@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR173 on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM\*

**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** shannonkona@gmail.com  
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**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 10:31 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** shaglund@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR173 on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM\*

**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sue Haglund	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 9:40 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** ssalmers@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR173 on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM

**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandy Salmers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the Department of Public Safety in expanding community-based drug and mental health treatment programs for non-violent offenders and transferring low risk offenders into community programs. A large percentage of the prison population has drug and mental health problems. I support substance abuse and mental health treatment for non-violent and low risk offenders. These programs will help inmates to change and rebuild their lives, reduce recidivism rates, and save the state money! Thank you.

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**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** miike@mikeswerdlow.com  
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**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
michael swerdlow	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** mauicrowe@gmail.com  
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**HCR173**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 28, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james crowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is proper, moving lives in the right direction, for low risk inmates. It lessens the overcrowded conditions of Hawaii's prisons.

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