

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Room 224

SUPPORT INTENT OF SB 2309 - REENTRY

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee!

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! 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.

SB 2309 makes an appropriation to the department of public safety for the establishment and implementation of a re-entry facility for criminal offenders, which will include a 250 bed residential program as well as a day reporting program.

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports reentry.

We believe that a network of smaller programs in the community that are close to transportation and work centers are preferable. Reentry involves a lot, especially for someone who has been institutionalized for many years. These programs would assist and support individuals in making a successful transition back to the community.

We applaud the Chair for working on ways to protect our community while helping people get their lives back together.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.