

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 OF SB 2884 - Gate Money and Clarifying Parole

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 2884 specifies that funds for discharged persons are subject to legislative appropriation and clarifies circumstances under which the paroling authority may grant early discharges while providing discretion to the paroling authority with respect to initial pardon consideration as it relates to paroled prisoners.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. Hawai'i used to provide \$200 in "gate money" to individuals as they left prison. This was discontinued many years ago and since then we have received calls from people who don't even have bus fare as the gate slams behind them.

It would be wonderful if HPA had a funded Resource Division that was staffed by individuals referring parolees, making the leap from institutional to community life, to community-based services.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.