

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

# LATE TESTIMONY

**TED SAKAI**  
DIRECTOR

**Martha Torney**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Max Ofani**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Shawn Tsuha**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 3119  
RELATING TO  
KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
Ted Sakai, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 04, 2014; 3:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** SB 3119 which promotes the establishment of correctional rehabilitative programs authorized by Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

The Legislature found with the passing of Act 117, the creation of a *pu'uhonua* comprising of a culturally-based substance abuse treatment and intervention program that takes a holistic approach based upon cultural identity and strength, will restore and maintain a better atmosphere and relationship between family, friends, community, and society. The purpose of Act 117 was to reduce recidivism, prevent crime, and ensure long-term positive change through the creation of a wellness center that re-establishes highly recognized native Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the overall well-being of persons, families, and the native Hawaiian community, and to create a pilot program to

allow incarcerated persons on the Big Island to work in the community, on community projects.

We are working with community agencies on the Big Island to develop programs based on Hawaiian culture for inmates at Kulani. While these are necessary, we believe that such programs need to be integrated with programs in the community that allow them to develop and apply the knowledge, skills and practices they acquire while in prison. Community programs should include *pu`uhonua* which are independent of the correctional system. SB3119 will allow us to provide inmates with better opportunities for success upon release, through correctional rehabilitative programs that are tied to the Native Hawaiian community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



**Hawaiian Homelands  
Assembly**

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Waiānae, HI 96792  
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*Chair, O'ahu*  
**Kammy Purdy**  
*Vice-Chair, Molokai*  
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Administration

**Annie Au Hoon**  
*Administrator*

February 4, 2014

To: **Senator Will Espero, Chair**  
**Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair & Members of the Senate**  
**Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs**

From: **Kali Watson**  
**Chairman of Statewide Economic/Housing Development**  
**SCHHA**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96792**

Re: **Hearing on Kulani Correctional Facility SB 3119**  
**February 4, 2014 at 3:45 pm**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 3119 regarding Kulani Correctional Facility. It will make funds available for correctional rehabilitative programs for fiscal year 2014-2015.

We are in favor of SB 3119 appropriating monies toward, in part, the efforts of reintroducing the cultural practice of Puuhonua Ohana Ho'opakele. It is an organization from Hilo that has been working hard for 16 years now trying to acquire Kulani Correctional Facility to restart its Hawaiian cultural practice. Under Act 117 signed into law by the Governor in 2012, the Department of Public Safety was instructed to work with Ohana Ho'opakele to reestablish Kulani as a correctional facility. Too many of our Hawaiian people are incarcerated on the mainland away from their families. This funding bill will allow the State to bring some of them home to be closer to their support systems.

The Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly, formerly the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations was founded more than 25 years ago to unite homestead communities and to advocate for the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921. The SCHHA is the oldest statewide advocacy organization representing the interests of more than 30,000 beneficiaries and families residing in the communities of the Hawaiian Home Land Trust. Its mission is to promote the self determination of native Hawaiians and the well-being of homestead communities. As Chairman of Economic/Housing /Committee, it's critical that we have a correctional institution that is located and funded within our community, right here on the Big Island.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB 3119.

Sincerely,

Kali Watson  
Chairman of Housing/Economic Development

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Chair Senator Espero & Members of the Senate PSM Committee:**

**My name is Dante Carpenter and I am in support of SB 3119 which appropriates funding for the operations of the Kulani Facilities on the Big Island of Hawai'i. SB 3119 funds the activities at Kulani which relate to those described in Act 117 SLH 2012. For all too many years several organizations have, as justice advocates, strongly recognized the Hawaiian Culture and particularly the principles of Pu'uhonua as the preferred method of bringing about "wellness" vice "incarceration, per se" of pa'ahau in the penal institutions of Hawai'i.**

**'Ohano Ho'opakele, has been a major proponent of wellness in conjunction with cultural education and practice during the final stage(s) of confinement of pa'ahau prior to release back to communities to rejoin and reassociate with their families and neighbors. Act 117 of SLH 2012 requires the Department of Safety to work with 'Ohana Ho'opakele and to that end this funding should apply in the reopening of the Kulani Facilities in 2014! Reuniting separated Hawaiian families while concurrently reducing recidivism are expected goals of this legislation.**

**Mahalo for your wisdom in funding this new and revitalized program at Kulani in 2014 and beyond!**

**Dante Carpenter  
Advisor to 'Ohana Ho'opakele**

# LATE TESTIMONY

**SB3119**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

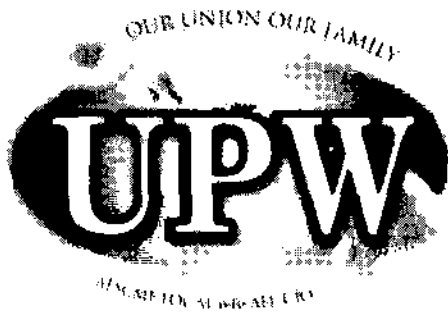
Testimony for PSM on Feb 4, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: the State should honor it's agreement and turn Kulani into a pu'uhona

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## LATE TESTIMONY

THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

The Honorable Sen. Will Espero, Chair  
The Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, February 4, 2014  
TIME OF HEARING: 3:45 PM  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 224

**TESTIMONY ON SB3119 RELATING TO KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports SB3119 that appropriates funds for programs at Kulani Correctional facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.