

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn H. Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 200
AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 146
REQUESTING THE REENTRY COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING THE REENTRY ACADEMY FOR TRAINING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL
RESOURCES (RAFTER) TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAM FOR INMATES.

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2016; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 200 and House Resolution (HR) 146, which proposes to have the Reentry Commission study the feasibility of establishing the highly-regarded RAFTER program for Hawaii's inmates.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Testimony on HCR 200
Relating to Public Safety
Wendell Murakawa, Chair
Re-Entry Commission

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2016, 10:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee. I strongly support HCR 200 because it is the first step to create a genuine Vocational and Entrepreneurial program for the sentence felon offenders incarcerated in our correctional facilities. This feasibility study will address all the obstacles in creating such a program by collaborating and forming partnerships with all the components such as the trade unions and the community colleges necessary to provide job training in occupations the offenders need to make the successful transition from prison.

This program will help address the over crowded conditions at our correctional facilities by attempting to reduce the high recidivism rate of the sentenced felons. Facility over crowding jeopardizes not only the health and safety of both inmates and staff but places the Public Safety Department to be financially liable for violating Federal housing guidelines.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in favor of HCR 200.

**BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY**

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

HCR 200 Hearing on 3/17/16 at 10am, RM. 309

Relating to Support for the Re-Entry Academy for Training and
Entrepreneurial Resources (RAFTER)

Testimony of

David Ushio
CEO
Pacific Energy Partners, LLC
Team Member: RAFTER

Thursday, March 17 2016
State Capitol

Chairman Takayama and Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

My name is David Ushio, CEO of Pacific Energy Partners, LLC and a team member of the Re-Entry Academy for Training, and Entrepreneurial Resources, (RAFTER).

I am submitting this testimony in support of the resolution to support a comprehensive feasibility study to establish a state side program for the Re-entry Academy for Training and Entrepreneurial Resources. In addition to state of the art vocational training centered on training for “real jobs and in the real world” of Hawaii, the RAFTER program will be designed to establish an innovative entrepreneurial based program to train qualifying inmates who have the aptitude, desire and skill set to own, operate, and run their own small business through entrepreneurial training and mentorship programs.

This business ownership training program is unique to the corrections industry and will provide qualifying inmates with the option to contribute to society by obtaining business ownership skills leading to the final option of owning their own businesses. This entrepreneurial small business

ownership program for inmate re-entry is being offered by other state correction systems on the mainland but will be the first time here in Hawaii.

In addition, RAFTER will also provide “Life Skills Training and Mentoring” for the qualifying participants of the Small Business Development Training and Mentoring Program.

Small Business Development Training and Mentoring

RAFTER will offer a pilot program for small business development for prisoners this state of the art concept which emphasizes the national movement toward self-sufficiency by owning your own business and will be offered on a selective basis to prisoners who possess the desire, skill set, and aptitude for business ownership. This innovative program will provide entrepreneurial training/coaching/mentoring for prisoners who desire to open their own businesses upon re-entry into society.

RAFTER is uniquely qualified to provide this small business and entrepreneurial training and has done similar small business development programs for the US Small Business Administration and the US Department of Defense.

The United States Department of Defense awarded my firm a two year, national training and technical assistance contract to provide entrepreneurial training for women owned and minority owned companies to establish their own small business so that DOD could increase minority and women entrepreneur participation in government business. During this two year contract, my firm conducted training and technical assistance conferences in communities throughout the United States which had major DOD procurement centers and military bases. The results of these training programs was the certification of hundreds of minority owned companies as companies eligible to do business on a sole source basis with the US Department of Defense and other US government agencies.

Many of the same barriers to participation that minority and women had in doing business with the US government are the same barriers that inmates face as they try to re-enter society. In Hawaii, a majority of the inmates who may qualify for this small business re-entry ownership program will be Native Hawaiian and members of other minority groups. These potential minority entrepreneurs could qualify to utilize various sole source and minority financing programs in the US federal procurement system. RAFTER is well positioned to train re-entry candidates to utilize these federal small business programs.

The RAFTER Small Business Development team also has worked on a collaborative basis with organizations such as the US Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Center Programs; the US Veterans Administration; and the US Small Business Retired Executives Program (SCORE). The Re-entry candidates of the RAFTER program will be provided hands-

on training a mentoring on how to utilize these federal small business and minority small business programs to enhance the potential of running their own small business successfully.

Life Skills Training

This vital piece of the program will be modeled after and similar to a very successful program called the "Vital Issues Project" which has been adopted by many State departments of Corrections and Public Safety. Many national studies have documented that a very high percentage of incarcerated individuals in the US lack basic "Life Skills". The Vital Issues Project (VIP) and other similar programs are designed to train Re-entry Candidates in basic Life Skills. The RAFTER Small Business Training and Mentoring program will include a mandatory Life Skills training component because success in owning your business requires that you have basis "Life Skills"

The life skills training include;

- Personal hygiene
- Grooming
- Safe working environment
- Dressing for success
- Exercise
- Time management
- Reading, writing and arithmetic
- Healthy eating habits
- Dealing with relationships and family life
- Responsible finances

Thank you for the opportunity to support this resolution to provide support for a comprehensive feasibility study for the Re-Entry Academy for Training and entrepreneurial Resources.

Respectfully Submitted;

David Ushio
David.ushio@gmail.com
808-371-2520

BEFOUR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama
Chair, House Committee on Public Safety

The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair, House Committee on Public Safety

The Committee Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

Testimony in favor of the resolution for RAFTOR

HRC 200 Hearing on 3/17/16 at 10 AM, RM 309

Testimony of Peter V. Herndon

Practice Director for Herndon Business Consulting, LLC

Team Member: RAFTER

REENTRY ACADEMY for TRAINING and ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCES

(RAFTOR)

Chairman Takayama and Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

My name is Peter V. Herndon, Practice Director for Herndon Business Consulting, LLC and a team member of (RAFTOR).

A summary of the program concept and key components follows;

Summary

This proposal is to fund a comprehensive feasibility study to establish the Re-entry Academy for Training and Entrepreneurial Resources (RAFTOR). RAFTER will train

qualifying inmates who have the aptitude, desire, and skill set to own, operate, and run their own small business through entrepreneurial training and mentorship programs. RAFTER will incorporate state of the art vocational training and mentoring programs to train qualifying inmates for jobs that have a future in the State of Hawaii. This will focus on the tourism industry and construction. In addition, and key to the success of the program RAFTER will provide life skills training. This is a critical piece for all three of the above items. This vital piece of the program will be modeled after and similar to a very successful program called the "Vital Issues Project" which has been adopted by many State departments of Corrections and Public Safety. Jim Brown, the former Pro Football star uses a spin-off of the Vital Issues Project life skills program in his AMER.I.CAN life skills program which is used throughout the Department of Corrections facilities in the State of California.

Together these programs are designed to reduce the recidivism rate in Hawaii and provide a second chance opportunity for inmates to become productive and tax paying contributors to society upon release from prison.

Upon completion of this feasibility study, RAFTER will seek Federal, State, and local grants and funding to jump start this unique small business development program. In addition, RAFTER will work with the private sector to enter into long term support and mentoring relationship with private sector industrial, commercial, and government contractors who share a common vision to provide a second chance for prisoners who are seeking to start their own businesses.

RAFTER is a unique program that ultimately will reduce the burden of tax payers and the State of Hawaii.

The Hawaii prison system is filled beyond capacity and in most cases may be in violation or on the edge of meeting federal housing requirements. Although there is much discussion to build more bed space no concrete plan has been approved so that any relief is at least 5-10 years away.

The re-entry of persons who have completed their incarceration has always been a difficult problem for a variety of reasons.

- Skills that were useful in the past are no longer economically sound.
- The inmates suffer from the reality of going back into society, as do the communities into which they are released. In a large number of cases, individuals have acquired nonproductive habits, lack a professional trade and are not motivated to seek traditional employment.
- Most inmates lack the necessary skills and training to be hired for a meaningful job that produces adequate pay to lead a more normal lifestyle.
- Newly acquired useful and employable skill will improve the confidence to reenter society.

Currently, 1,370 prisoners are housed on the mainland and the balances of 2,227 are in Hawaii facilities.

The reentry efforts are more difficult for these returning inmates.

Approximately 49.6% or 2 out of every 4 convicted felons return to prison within a year in Hawaii (from the Department of Public Safety). The gross number of prisoners is anticipated to grow, thus straining further an overburdened system.

All programs will be administered by the Department of Public Safety and RAFTER will be offered to the qualified prisoners towards the end of incarceration selected by their demonstration of good time and behavior and in accordance with past practices. Prisoners, who qualify, can choose to enroll in RAFTER. The condition of their continuing in the program is to be in compliance with all program requirements. This is a strict tolerance environment and any infraction will result in returning the prisoner to serve the remaining term in a facility. One strike and you're out.

In conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, evaluations and recommendations that would be processed at the transferring facility would include:

- Type of charges
- Past or present classifications
- Criminal Record
- Drug abuse history

- Physical and mental health evaluation
- Possessing a GED or higher education
- Prior trade certificate or license

Per the current protocol and consistent with past practice, drug testing would be on a 100% basis weekly for the inmates and staff to maintain a drug free environment.

During their term at RAFTER, they will learn employable skills that allow the prisoner to reenter society as a qualified worker.

This proposal incorporates four components which work together:

1) Small Business Development Training and Mentoring:

RAFTER will offer a pilot program for small business development for prisoners this state of the art concept which emphasizes the national movement toward self-sufficiency by owning your own business and will be offered on a selective basis to prisoners who possess the desire, skill set, and aptitude for business ownership. This innovative program will provide entrepreneurial training/coaching/mentoring for prisoners who desire to open their own businesses upon re-entry into society.

RAFTER is uniquely qualified to provide this small business and entrepreneurial training and has done similar small business development programs for the US Small Business Administration and the US Department of Defense. The Department of Defense awarded principals of RAFTER national training and technical assistance contracts for women owned and minority owned companies to increase minority and women entrepreneur participation in government business. The RAFTER Small Business Development team also has worked on a collaborative basis with organizations such as the US Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Center Programs; the US Veterans Administration; and the US Small Business Retired Executives Program (SCORE). Principals of RAFTER have served on The Hawaii Hotel Association; the Hawaiian Tourism Authority; The Hawaiian Visitors Bureau; and a 20 career with Hilton Hotels, starting as a prep cook and eventually General Manager of the Kauai Hilton. Other principals of RAFTER served as the Director-Equipment Division for Grace Pacific

and worked closely with many of the major Hawaii Trade Unions. RAFTER will endeavor to work with the University of Hawaii and will seek collaborative relationships with other public and private sector groups dedicated to the development and training of small business owners and entrepreneurs.

2) Visitor Industry Training leading to Placement:

Through the development of teaming relationship with the visitor and resort hotel food service industries RAFTER will offer hands on training for qualified prisoners and may incorporate existing culinary programs in cooperation with the Hawaii Hotel Association and the UH community colleges. KCCC and the women's correctional facility in Kailua had such a program in the past.

Visitor industry training can include:

- Hotel management and operations
- Culinary arts
- Food service
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Engineering
- Maintenance
- Stewarding
- Health and Beauty
- Landscape and gardening
- Painting and interior design
- Pool maintenance

3) Vocational and Trade Training leading to placement:

Real Time teaming relationships with Hawaii based labor unions and the construction industry. Many trade union have invested serious asserts to training facilities and programs. RAFTER will partner with the unions and use existing facilities and programs

when appropriate. With the current construction needs the trade unions would prefer to train and assist with job placement for their new members.

The vocational and trade training can include;

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Electricity
- Heavy Equipment
- Sheet metal
- Framing
- Cabinets and bathrooms
- Glass, stone and granite installation
- Roofing
- Crane operation
- Carpet and flooring installation

4) Life Skills Training

This vital piece of the program will be modeled after and similar to a very successful program called the "Vital Issues Project" which has been adopted by many State departments of Corrections and Public Safety. Jim Brown, the former Pro Football star uses a spin-off of the Vital Issues Project life skills program in his AMER.I.CAN life skills program which is used throughout the Department of Corrections facilities in the State of California.

The life skills training can include;

- Personal hygiene
- Grooming
- Safe working environment
- Dressing for success
- Exercise
- Time management

- Reading, writing and arithmetic
- Healthy eating habits
- Dealing with relationships and family life
- Responsible finances

RAFTER Central Core Management

RAFTER will have a central core of management that will define job descriptions and duties.

Hotel personnel-in-training will rotate through the different responsibilities they will need to master when they reenter their communities. RAFTER will develop teaming relationship with the visitor and resort hotel industry and create training leading to employment for jobs that actually exist in Hawaii.

Vocational skills will be taught in the classroom and during hands on training. Successful candidates can be employed in the facility and or in the community. These prisoners will be individuals seeking to be productive citizens upon reentering the community and better their lives.

RAFTER will also provide employment assistance at the end of their incarceration.

A budget of \$150,000 is requested the sum appropriated may be expended by DBEDT/CBED for the feasibility to develop a comprehensive business plan for the RAFTER leading to a pilot project. This feasibility study will identify and incorporate similar programs which have worked successfully in other regions of the US and will be adapted to the unique requirements and culture of Hawaii. The feasibility study will work with the private sector partners and with the labor unions in Hawaii whose support and partnership will be critical to the success for this program. The feasibility study will also identify other sources of long term funding including a combination of Federal, State and local funding with an emphasis on partnerships with private sector commercial and foundation support. The study budget would incorporate 4 primary tasks allocating \$37,500 to each as follows;

- 1) Entrepreneurial small business mentoring and establishing.

Page 7

- 2) Real time Hawaii based training leading to jobs in the visitor and tourism industry.
- 3) Real time teaming relationships with Hawaii labor unions and the construction industry.
- 4) Life skills training similar to with a very successful program called the "Vital Issues Project" which has been adopted by many State departments of Corrections and Public Safety as a model. Jim Brown, the former Pro Football star uses a spinoff of the Vital Issues Project.....life skills program in his AMER.I.CAN life skills program which is used throughout the Department of Corrections facilities in the State of California.

Respectively Submitted;



Peter V. Herndon

Herndonconsulting@hawaii.rr.com

808-221-2601

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:58 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR200 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR200

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:00 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: leilani.maxera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR200 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM*

HCR200

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

pbstestimony

From: Lorne Fleming <lornefleming@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:31 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: herndonconsulting@hawaii.rr.com; herndonconsulting@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Hearing: HCR 200 3/17/16

House Committee on Public Safety
Hon. Gregg Yakama , Chair

Sir:

I am the person referenced in the RAFTER proposal to transition eligible inmates from incarceration to appropriate technical, service and other identifiable educational programs in a structured setting in Hawai'i.

My background includes 10 years as a senior Executive with Grace Pacific Corporation in Hawaii, having responsibility for Equipment Maintenance Management in Hawai'i, thirty plus years in California in similar positions, working in both Union and Non Union environments, in the Heavy Construction Equipment industry.

We recognize the horrific impact early criminal convictions have on the futures of young people; on education, family structure, economic opportunity and stability, and we know that a focused program of formal education, socialization and technical training will stop this slide into a permanent underclass by so many of our at risk youth.

The thirst for knowledge by so many of these individuals has been apparent in every study of early offenders diversion programs.

Locally available labor supply will be outstripped by the need for well prepared candidates for the many opportunities for employment in our State by businesses large and small, whether Union or non Union employers, in the very near future. This program will make a significant contribution to the lives and families of under employed young people who have made some unfortunate choices in their lives. They CAN be saved and become contributing members of our society.

The ability of our group to provide the services described in the RAFTER proposal is a reflection of the individuals involved in our program, and we are committed to the proposition that education and training is the solution to this problem in our State.

I have over forty years of service in my industry, including a degree in my specialty, and have been responsible for in service education, in several instances working within the framework of organized labor, as well as an in house focused program.

We have a plan, a program, a curricula and a vision.

Thanking you in advance for your interest, Lorne Fleming CEM

Sent from my iPad

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:25 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR200 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR200

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: the exiting inmates need counseling for stability before entering the "outside" world.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/email: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 17, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Room 309

LATE

SUPPORT for HCR 200 - REENTRY ACADEMY FOR TRAINING & ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCES

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Yamashita 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 in Hawai'i for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people 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.

HCR 200 requests the reentry commission to study the feasibility of establishing the Reentry Academy for Training and Entrepreneurial Resources (RAFTER) training and mentoring program for inmates.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. CAP supports all efforts to help the successful reintegration of individuals back to their communities. The 2007 Reentry law was enacted to ensure that individuals are programmed for successful reentry from day one of imprisonment.

Vocational and skills training is vital and should be offered throughout incarceration to keep people focused on planning for their successful reentry back to the community. The training academy should have a range of programs (substance abuse, mental health, skills development, vocational, educational, psychological and practical) to help folks successfully reenter the community. The academy can be used as an incentive if the folks in that program can earn more privileges.

The academy should have a strong interface with the community so that folks about to reenter can reintegrate into a world that is not so foreign, but one with which they have become more familiar.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 5:11 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR200 on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM

HCR200

Submitted on: 3/16/2016
Testimony for PBS on Mar 17, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The 2007 Reentry law was enacted to ensure that individuals are programmed for successful reentry from day one of imprisonment Vocational and skills training is vital and should be offered throughout incarceration to keep people focused on their successful reentry back to the community The training academy should have a range of programs (substance abuse, mental health, skills development, vocational, educational, psychological and practical) to help folks successfully reenter the community The academy can be used as an incentive because the folks in that program have earned more privileges The academy must have a strong interface with the community so that folks about to reenter can reenter a world that is not so foreign, but one with which they have become more familiar

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov