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SB2629

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION.
Report Title:	Puuhonua Commission; Post-incarcerated Persons; Reintegration; Special Fund
Description:	Establishes the puuhonua commission within the department of public safety to help post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees reintegrate into society. Creates county advisory committees to advise the commission. Establishes a special fund.
Companion:	HB2190
Package:	None
Current Referral:	PSM, WAM
Introducer(s):	ESPERO, INOUYE, SHIMABUKURO, Baker, Galuteria

From: [A.M. Mayes](#)
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Subject: SB2629 Puuhonua Commission
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:41:45 AM

From: Anna Mayes dba Anna Ramos
Submitted on: February 2, 2016

Testimony in support of SB2629, Relating to Puuhonua Commission.
Submitted to: Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs.

Aloha Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, Senator Will
Espero, and members of the committee,

I support SB2629, Relating to the Puuhonua Commission with a
consideration to amend language.

As a member of the unofficial Puuhonua focus group that has been
meeting since September 2015, I would like to ask that language in the
amendment to SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, be
changed to reflect the true intent of the commission:

'I § 3 53 - Puuhonua commission; established. (a) There is
established **alongside** the department of public safety for administrative
purposes the puuhonua commission.

As the number of inmates increase in and out of state facilities, the ratio of
Native Hawaiians to all other ethnic groups continues to be
disproportionate (OHA, The Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report,
2012). Current practices have proven inappropriate in rehabilitating
Native Hawaiian inmates, and ineffective in addressing their disparate
treatment in our criminal justice system (OHA, The Disparate Treatment
of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System, 2010). It is from this
understanding and authority that I believe the commission will operate
successfully, alongside and in support of the public safety department.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna M. Mayes

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"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." ~~John Maxwell.