

SR 65 / SCR 97

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

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Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Shawn H. Tsuha**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE RESOLUTION 65  
AND SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 97  
URGING THE STATE TO ESTABLISH THE PUUHONUA PROGRAM IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE CONTINUED REHABILITATION OF  
POST-INCARCERATED PERSONS, PAROLEES, AND PROBATIONERS.

By  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Monday, March 28, 2016; 1:16 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to provide the following **comments** to Senate Resolution (SR) 65 / Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 97.

PSD is currently working with cultural practitioners across the State to provide Native Hawaiian programming for Hawaii's incarcerated population. It should be noted that it has been a challenging task to find program/service providers willing to commit to a set schedule to provide consistent host culture programming within a correctional system.

The Puuhonua concept is one that has yet to be established and vetted for programming viability and application of evidence-based standards, as recommended by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

The Department of Public Safety welcomes all input allowing practitioners to provide a program syllabus outlining in what form(s) an implemented Puuhonua would take.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.  
Mayor

NADINE K. NAKAMURA  
Managing Director

## POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUAI

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DARRYL D. PERRY  
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March 23, 2016

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members

Re: **SUPPORT FOR S.C.R. NO. 97 PUUHONUA PROGRAM IN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Vice Chair English,

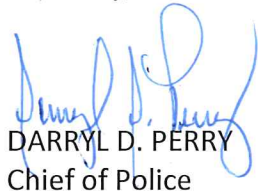
The Kauai Police Department recognizes and **supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution 97 relating to establishing the Puuhonua Program in the Department of Public Safety for the continued rehabilitation of post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers.

As a caring community it is essential to have after-care programs to support and assist those who are willing to turn their lives around. This would be similar to the very successful Restorative Justice Programs of the past.

We know that returning post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers to the same environment where they came from, will only exacerbate and derail their rehabilitation efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,



DARRYL D. PERRY  
Chief of Police

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SR65 on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 3:13:35 PM

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**SR65**

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY ON SC 65 AND SCR 97 URGING THE STATE TO ESTABLISH THE  
PU`UHONUA PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE  
CONTINUED REHABILITATION OF POST-INCARCERATED PERSONS, PAROLEES,  
AND PROBATIONERS BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 28, 2016

1:16 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair English, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SC 65 and SCR 97 Urging the State to Establish the Pu`uhonua Program.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for seven Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. The several varied risk factors in the families, including homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disabilities. Two years ago, after much research and analysis, BFC determined that one of the increasing risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that there is at least one parent who is incarcerated. Eighty percent of the families we serve across the State are of Native Hawaiian ancestry.

In July of last year, Blueprint for Change was invited to join a group of Native and non-Native Hawaiian individuals who had formed an ad hoc planning committee to dig deep into the issue of the high rate of Native Hawaiian incarceration and recidivism. This work is the continued momentum that began with a study conducted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) called the, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System." Following the submittal of the study report to the Legislature in 2010, the Legislature created a Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force which, in 2012, provided the Legislature a report that contained a comprehensive list of recommendations that included the development of pre-release and re-entry programs that incorporated traditional Hawaiian cultural values and practices that would better connect to Native Hawaiian offenders, help them successfully reenter society and reunify with their families, and thereby, reducing the dismal rate of recidivism among this population. Acting upon the Task Force's recommendations, legislators passed a bill (Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012) that called for the creation of a pu`uhonua, a wellness center, based on Hawaiian cultural values that would help the Native Hawaiian individuals and the community-at-large by using cultural healing as a means to address the unique needs of Native Hawaiian offenders, men, women, and youth.

In its twice- a- month meetings since July, this group of prison reform advocates, service providers, retired State corrections' officers, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, and ex-offenders, and informally called, "Holomua Pu`uhonua (Moving Pu`uhonua Forward)," found that since the passage of Act 117, there have been no coordinated, statewide efforts to bring this concept of pu`uhonua to reality.

**We support SC 65 and SCR 97, because they would provide the impetus for the State to implement the key purposes of Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012 to create a pu`uhonua plan and program. We believe there needs to be leadership and a coordinated effort in the**

**State that can set policy and coordinate a system of culturally integrated practices and services that will help successfully reintegrate Native Hawaiian offenders into society and reunify with their families. We believe this is a critical step in ending the cycle of incarceration in Native Hawaiian families.**

Mahalo for allowing us to share this testimony with the Committee.

SCR 97 AND SR 65 - URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH THE PU`UHONUA PROGRAM  
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE CONTINUED REHABILITATION OF POST-  
INCARCERATED PERSONS, PAROLEES, AND PROBATIONERS

March 28, 2016

1:15 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Chair Sen. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Sen. English, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Good Afternoon. My name is Dante Keala Carpenter, Member-Advisor to 'Ohana Ho'opakele, a Restorative Justice Organization and advocates of creating Pu'uhonua(s). **I speak in support SCR 97 and SR 65 Urging the State to Establish the Pu'uhonua Program in the Department of Public Safety for the continued Rehabilitation of Post-Incarcerated persons, parolees and probationers.**

This work is part of a continued effort and recommendations including a study conducted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) called the, "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System." Following the submittal of that report to the Legislature in 2010, the Legislature created a Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force which, in 2012, provided the Legislature a report that contained a comprehensive list of recommendations that included the development of pre-release and re-entry programs that incorporated traditional Hawaiian cultural values and practices that would better connect to Native Hawaiian offenders, help them successfully reenter society and reunify with their families, and thereby, reducing the dismal rate of recidivism among this population.

The Task Force produced a number of recommendations, and legislators passed a bill (Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012) that called for the creation of a pu'uhonua, a wellness center, strongly supported by 'Ohana Ho'opakele. Act 117 is based on Hawaiian cultural values that would help the Native Hawaiian individuals and the community-at-large by using cultural healing as a means to address the unique needs of Native Hawaiian offenders, including men, women, and youth.

Since July of 2015, a dedicated group of prison reform advocates, service providers, retired State corrections' officers, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, and ex-offenders, and informally called, "Holomua Pu'uhonua (Moving Pu'uhonua Forward)," found that since the passage of Act 117, there have been no coordinated, statewide efforts to implement the Pu'uhonua concept. I've attended *Holomua Pu'uhonua* meetings and concur with their efforts!

**We strongly support SCR 97 and SR 65, because they would provide the impetus for the State to implement the key purposes of Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012 to create a pu'uhonua plan and program. We believe there needs to be leadership and a coordinated effort in the State that can set policy and coordinate a system of culturally integrated practices and services that will help successfully reintegrate Native Hawaiian offenders into society and reunify with their families. We believe this is a critical step in ending the cycle of incarceration in Native Hawaiian families.**

Mahalo for allowing this important measure to be enacted.

Respectfully,

Dante Keala Carpenter  
Member-Advisor 'Ohana Ho'o pakele  
(808) 833-8163



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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 28, 2016 13:16PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support SCR97 and allow Hawaiians to practice their traditional culture and religion in prison settings, especially the Pu'uuhonua principles that apply to healing. These Hawaiians can sure use healing. We cannot separate native Hawaiians from their ancient practices which will help immensely to rehabilitate them. Mahalo, Katarina Culina Po box 2142 Pahoa, HI 96778

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