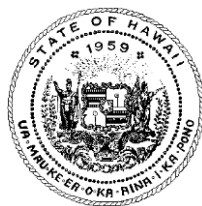


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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 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

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

Thursday, April 14, 2016; 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to provide the following **comments** to 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.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 2:28 PM  
**To:** pbstestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR97 on Apr 14, 2016 11:00AM

**SCR97**

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for PBS on Apr 14, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR97

From: Cristina Howe, Masters of Social Work Student at University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hearing: Thursday, April 14, 2016; 11:00 A.M. Conference Room 329 State Capitol

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support SCR97**. I am Cristina Howe, Masters of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and also a qualified mental health provider working with the post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers.

I strongly support SCR97. The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the State to establish the Puuhonua Program in the Department of Public Safety for the continued rehabilitation of post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers. This measure would emulate the puuhonua of ancient Hawaii, which were sites designated as safe , where women and children, ailing men in times of war, vanquished warriors, and fleeing criminals could take temporary refuge. Men and women who have been incarcerated and released may benefit from the Puuhonua Program, which would apply the puuhonua concept to SCR97.

Please support, SCR97 so that Hawaii can continue to provide rehabilitation services to post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers.



**LATE**

**SCR97**

**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.**

House Committee on Public Safety

April 14, 2016

11:00 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR97, which would encourage the creation of a comprehensive program to facilitate the continued rehabilitation and successful reentry of convicted offenders who have paid off their debt to society.

To address the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system,<sup>1</sup> OHA has long supported the integration of culturally-based models to better rehabilitate pa'ahao, reconcile them with their 'ohana and communities, and reduce recidivism. The Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force has similarly encouraged the exploration of options to address systemic issues in the criminal justice system, such as by supporting indigenous models of healing, and bolstering reintegration programs and services.<sup>2</sup> In this regard, OHA agrees that a stronger network of support will better ensure that reintegrating pa'ahao can access critically-needed housing, healthcare, education, and employment resources. Moreover, OHA agrees that culturally-based support services may best aid formerly incarcerated pa'ahao in reconnecting with their culture, 'ohana, and community, increasing their chances of successfully reintegrating with and becoming productive members of society.

Accordingly, OHA believes that this resolution may help to establish a culturally-based support network, which could significantly alleviate the disproportionate burden of the criminal justice system on the Native Hawaiian community. OHA notes that the cultural concept of pu'uhonua as a "healing place" does not necessitate a physical space, but does imply some degree of constancy. Thus, the permanent programming this resolution contemplates could provide our formerly incarcerated pa'ahao with a stable, meaningful, and culturally-informed opportunity for true healing and lasting rehabilitation.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR97. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Native Hawaiians comprise nearly 40% of those incarcerated, but only 24% of the general population in Hawai'i. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 36 (2010), [http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/10-09\\_exs\\_disparatetreatmentofnativehawaiians\\_rd-ac.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/10-09_exs_disparatetreatmentofnativehawaiians_rd-ac.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT 8 (2012), [http://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF\\_REPORT\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](http://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012NHJTF_REPORT_FINAL_0.pdf).

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:16 AM  
To: pbstestimony  
Cc: luukia.archer@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR97 on Apr 14, 2016 11:00AM



Categories: Green Category

**SCR97**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for PBS on Apr 14, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Luukia Archer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge the committee to pass SCR97. This resolution may help to establish a culturally based support network that could alleviate the disproportionate burden of the criminal justice system on the Native Hawaiian community. The integration of culturally based models may aid the formerly incarcerated in reconnecting with their culture, families and broader community thus reducing recidivism. I strongly support SCR97.

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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