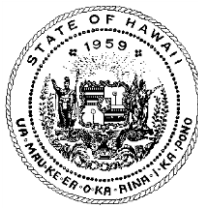


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA  
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Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

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

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 97  
AND SENATE RESOLUTION 65  
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 Ways and Means  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 5, 2016; 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

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

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.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

**Testimony of  
Leslie Kuloloio, Chair**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016  
1:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
SENATE RESOLUTION 65  
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**

Senate Resolution 65 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 97 urges the State to establish the Puuhonua Program in the Department of Public Safety for the continued rehabilitation of post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers. **Aha Moku supports these resolutions.**

Traditionally, in ancient Hawaii the Puuhonua were designated sites on each island, and most often within each moku that were places of refuge for all in times of war and peace. They were meant to be a temporary place of safety

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions and we urge their passage.

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

April 5, 2016

1:00 pm

Conference Rm. 211

Chair Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Good Afternoon. My name is Dante Keala Carpenter, Member-Advisor to 'Ohana Ho'opakele, a Restorative Justice Organization and advocates of creating Pu'uhinua(s). **I speak in support of SCR97 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 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'okele. Act 117 is based on Hawaiian cultural values that would help the 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 purpose 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'opakele  
(808)833-8162

**From:** [Alan Yoshimoto](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SCR 97 / SR65 support  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 11:55:02 AM

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Aloha,

The human and economic costs of not providing the Puuhonua program for post- incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers would be tragic. They already face an uphill challenge to secure shelter, food, and employment. They paid for their mistakes, and they can rehabilitate. Without the social net this resolution provides, we effectively throw these people to a hard fate in most cases. I support the humane provisions intended by SCR97 / SR65.

Alan Yoshimoto

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us](mailto:gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR97 on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 11:14:13 AM

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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gladys Coelho Baisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [katc31999@gmail.com](mailto:katc31999@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR97 on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 7:08:01 PM

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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tabraham08@gmail.com](mailto:tabraham08@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR97 on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 10:54:42 AM

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**SCR97**

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

Testimony for WAM on Apr 5, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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