

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 478, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2017; 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

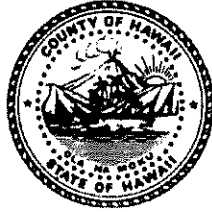
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 478, House Draft (HD) 1, which seeks to appropriate funds to support a full-time (1.00 FTE) agricultural management position and provide attendant equipment to develop the Kulani Correctional Facility's (KCF) agricultural operation.

PSD appreciates the Legislature's support to enhance this program, which will effectively utilize Kulani's location and natural characteristics in developing an appropriate reentry option for its minimum security inmates.

PSD also appreciates the addition in HD 1 of a second 1.0 FTE position for the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF). The Department notes, however, that funds for equipment were not included for WCF, and respectfully requests that consideration be given to also increasing the equipment appropriation for Waiawa.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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February 21, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke  
Finance Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813.

Dear Chair Luke and members:

RE: **HB 478**

Thank you for this opportunity to support an agricultural program at the Kulani Correctional Facility, HB 478.

Although Corrections is the kuleana of the State, I have long believed that the County should take an active interest in the treatment of, and opportunities afforded to, individuals who have been incarcerated. For that reason, in my first term as Mayor, I recruited State and community partners and established the Going Home program, which continues to operate informally today.

It is in everyone's interest that inmates return to their communities, after serving their time, as well prepared as possible to be productive members of society. The kind of training that a robust agricultural program could provide at Kulani would seem to be a perfect fit.

I encourage passage of HB 478 with adequate funding to give the program a chance to prove its value.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Harry Kim in cursive script.  
Harry Kim  
Mayor

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2017

11:00 am

Room 308

## SUPPORT - HB 478 HD1 - Resources for Agricultural Operations at Kulani & Waiawa

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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 two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the almost 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 1,700 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of developing a real agricultural operation and providing the necessary resources, including an agricultural manager at Kulani and Waiawa prisons. Consistent management of the farms at both facilities will ensure sustainability.

It is common knowledge that the majority of our imprisoned population are of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and connecting people with their ancestral lands can only produce positive benefits for the individuals working there as well as for the farms. Hawai'i has the perfect weather to grow our own food. It would be great if all our facilities, where feasible, established farms! We know that food affects behavior and a plant-based diet that adds more fresh fruits and vegetables could help the management of our facilities.

The benefits of having agricultural operations are numerous outside of providing a more nutritional diet for our imprisoned people. The program can teach marketable skills to our people serving sentences as Hawai'i focuses on food self-sufficiency and sustainability.

We must always remember that today's inmate is tomorrow's neighbor and we want people to return with skills, knowledge, and a strong desire to help build more safe, healthy and just communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to champion HB 478 HD1!

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** franny234@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM\*

**HB478**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

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**LATE**

February 22, 2017

Testimony in support of HB478

Aloha, my name is Will Caron and I offer this testimony in strong support of HB478 on behalf of the Hawaii chapter of the Young Progressives Demanding Action, a community organizing group representing more than 550 registered members.

George Helm famously said, “the culture cannot exist without the land.” He was referring to Hawaiian culture specifically, but more broadly, this axiom speaks to the need for people to be connected to land and place. Land, therefore, is a part of our identity. Colonialism and neoliberal capitalism has broken that connection in many respects, and contributed to a myriad of socio-economic problems for people all over the world: poor health, poverty and, most relevantly today, high rates of incarceration.

In Hawai‘i, the most disenfranchised group within these socio-economic frameworks is Hawaiians. Native Hawaiians make up almost 40 percent of the population in Hawai‘i’s prisons and jails while only comprising roughly 10 percent of the state population. Because Hawaiians are so over-represented, restorative justice programs that deal with place and with the land will be particularly beneficial and impactful for prison populations.

The proposed pilot program at Kulani Correctional Facility is the epitome of a place-based, restorative justice program. As George Helm fully recognized, connection to the land has a restorative, healing impact on disenfranchised peoples. Working the land provides purpose and a sense of progress. Contributing to food-production, empowers through the enablement of inmates to provide for themselves and will, as is mentioned in the bill, bring down food supply costs for the state and improve the health and dieting habits of the inmates, which will, in turn, reduce future healthcare costs to the people affected.

The sense of independence and self-reliance enabled by this program is an important way of rehabilitating inmates so that, when they leave prison and re-enter the larger community, they will do so with some sense of pride in the accomplishments they have made, rather than the emptiness, fear and anger that is so commonly felt by incarcerated people. This program will provide a direct means and avenue to reconnect with the larger community by way of the valuable farming skills inmates would be able to develop while serving time. This will, in turn, give inmates a direct avenue to an important, sustainable job route once released.

The more we can implement restorative justice programs like this that truly contribute to the healing of our brothers and sisters who have made mistakes in life, the healthier our communities will be. Rates of recidivism will be lower and our society will be strengthened by the contributions these men and women will be able to make. In other words, this program is a win, win, win scenario, and we ask that you fund the necessary administrative and equipment costs needed to get this program off the ground.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

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Mahalo.