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GOVERNOR



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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

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2017; 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishimoto, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair

Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Friday, March 17, 2017

1:30 pm

Room 224

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 478 HD1 - AG PROGRAMS AT KULANI AND WAIAWA

Aloha Chairs Nishimoto and Gabbard and Members of the Committees!

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.

HB 478 appropriates funds for a full-time agricultural management position and equipment for the Kulani correctional facility agriculture operation. The HD1 added Waiawa.

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 `aina.

We also note that the Women's prison has a small farm that was introduced by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle many years ago. WCCC could also benefit from some funding to enlarge their farming operation since the original concept was to grow fresh food for the prison and to deliver the remaining produce to a senior center in Waimanalo. What a fabulous way to bridge the gap between corrections and the community! Hawai'i needs more thoughtful, innovative programs like this concept to help people who have violated the law give back to the community and learn marketable job skills at the same time! A true win-win!

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, March 14, 2017 8:21 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM*

HB478

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for PSM/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: PSMTestimony
Cc: evernw@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM*

HB478

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for PSM/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evern Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 8:08 PM
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Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
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HB478

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for PSM/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To provide funding for this great training and profitable project, in time will more than pay for the equipment and manager. It will also give the inmates a great feeling of accomplishment that they did with their own two hands. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.

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Cc: mindyolvera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM*

HB478

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for PSM/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melinda Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

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To: PSMTestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM*

HB478

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Testimony for PSM/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Mahalo!

De MONT R. D. Conner
Co-Manager
Ho`omana Pono, LLC

A native Hawaiian Advocacy Corporation, operating out of the Wai`anae Coast