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HR126

Submitted on: 3/18/2017

Testimony for OMH on Mar 21, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HCR198 / HR126

**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS OF
NATIVE HAWAIIAN-CULTURE-BASED HO‘OPONOPONO SERVICES.**

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

March 21, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Room 321

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HCR198/HR126, which would request that OHA convene stakeholders to explore the use of ho‘oponopono as a traditional Native Hawaiian system of well-being, for the purpose of improving public safety programs relating to crime prevention, intervention, or prisoner reintegration.

OHA has long advocated for criminal justice reform that examines and implements evidence-based alternative approaches that can better improve public safety, effectively rehabilitate pa‘ahao, reduce recidivism, and save taxpayer dollars. These include culture-based intervention and rehabilitation models that build on the positive aspects of offenders’ or potential offenders’ cultural identity, and that acknowledge how contextual, culture-related factors can be critical to understanding and addressing criminal behavior. The integration of ho‘oponopono practices into public safety programs may be one such approach, and may significantly enhance the state’s capacity to prevent criminal activity as well as rehabilitate and successfully reintegrate pa‘ahao into their respective communities.

As suggested in this resolution, OHA believes that the incorporation of ho‘oponopono practices may also provide a range of benefits in other contexts, including in community education, individual and public health, and family therapy.

OHA remains committed to increasing access to ho‘oponopono services to pa‘ahao as well as families and communities at all stages of life. OHA has already begun convening cultural practitioners to discuss the perpetuation and preservation of ho‘oponopono, as well as ways to support ho‘oponopono as a traditional Native Hawaiian system of well-being.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR 198/HR126. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on these measures.