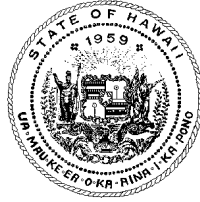


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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MAX N. OTANI
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40 /
HOUSE RESOLUTION 32 –
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TO ALLOW FAITH PODS
BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH
CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans
Representative Takashi, Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Friday, March 19, 2021; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 40 and House Resolution (HR) 32, which request PSD to allow faith pods based on Kapu Aloha to be established within each correctional center. The Department agrees with the value of this suggestion and has already begun the review process to determine if PSD can be allowed to establish faith pods in our facilities, and if so, what the process would entail, including consideration of the space requirements, funding needs, appropriate staffing levels, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:32:58 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Our organization stands in strong support of HCR 40 and HR 32 relating to criminal justice. These resolutions urge the establishment of Kapu Aloha Faith Pods (Safe places with no gang connections and a commitment to nonviolence) in Hawaii Correctional institutions. Faith Pods will help inmates, their families, the DPS, and the general public by providing positive purpose, and activity to pa'ahao. This will help lower recidivism with little or no cost. It seems to be in everyone's best interest. In the long-term, we need modern-day Pu'u'honua (places of healing, not punishment) as real alternatives to prison. In the meantime establishing Kapu Aloha Faith Pods in all correctional centers will be a positive step forward.

Your support will be much appreciated.

Jim Albertini for Malu 'Aina

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:26:18 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo to Representatives Takumi and Ohno for submitting this resolution!

Ohana Ho`opakele strongly supports this resolution!

Organized in 2000 Ohana Ho`opakele has advocated for healing and rehabilitation of pa`ahao. Faith Pods based on Kapu Aloha will surely assist the disproportionately represented native Hawaiian population heal. It does not cost anything to begin, the Department of Public Safety has already expressed support for this, and our brothers in Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ have experienced participating in Faith Pods. Even more important the experience on Mauna Kea has shown that Kapu Aloha has been experienced by more than 10,000 Hawaiians and has shown a miraculously calming and respectful atmosphere even in the midst of arrests.

Faith Pods based on Kapu Aloha in correctional centers in Hawaii will provide a safe space for pa`ahao entering the prison system for the first time, with provide a place where healing can begin at the beginning of carcentration and will introduce Hawaiian pa`ahao to rituals that help to build a positive identity and introduce them to processes that could fully heal them in a pu`uhonua once they complete their incarceration period.

Mahalo for hearing this resolution! Please pass this resolution that would be a huge step in the direction of rehabilitating our pa`ahao!

Thank you for allowing us to testify in this manner!

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:50:21 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ohana Ho`opakele	Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Ohana Ho`opakele strongly supports this resolution!

Organized in 2000 Ohana Ho`opakele has advocated for healing and rehabilitation of pa`ahao. Faith Pods based on Kapu Aloha will surely assist the disproportionately represented native Hawaiian population heal. It does not cost anything to begin, the Department of Public Safety has already expressed support for this, and our brothers in Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ have experienced participating in Faith Pods. Even more important the experience on Mauna Kea has shown that Kapu Aloha has been experienced by more than 10,000 Hawaiians and has shown a miraculously calming and respectful atmosphere even in the midst of arrests.

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Mahalo for hearing this resolution! Please pass this resolution that would be a huge step in the direction of rehabilitating our pa`ahao!

Thank you for allowing us to testify in this manner!

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:59:17 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaleihau Kamauu	Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou:

My name is Euel Ray Kaleihau Kamauu. I write in strong support of HCR40 and HR32, urging for the implementation of Faith Pods in Hawai`i's prison system, specifically at Halawa Medium Security Facility. I am an ex-pa`ahao (prisoner) having served over 30 years in Hawai`i's prison system. While incarcerated at Watonga Correctional Facility in Oklahoma I had the privilege of being a part of the Faith Pod there. It has strengthened me in ways beyond measure and though I continue in my struggles reintegrating, it is my Faith, strengthened by values and standards gained by my time in the Faith Pod, that keeps me pushing forward in my new life.

I have experienced the changes over the years in the prison system. I have seen it go from an attitude of rehabilitation to one of retribution. The latter is not the answer.

I urge you to support this resolution for the sake of our future generation. Most pa`ahao will be released one day. It is in all of our best interest that they get out better individuals and not incapacitated, angry ex-cons thinking that the world owe them. Faith Pods will be a great first step in that direction.

Mahalo!

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:46:38 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please oppose HCR40. As a Humanist minister trying for years to volunteer in the prison system for the inmates, I can tell you there is a huge bias in the prison system against non-Christian clergy in Hawaii. Not only do they disallow Humanist ministers, but also representatives from the Jewish and Islamic faiths.

This blatant discrimination against non-Christian clergy shows correctional centers do not have the psychological welfare of the inmates in mind.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:28:51 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Would be beneficial.

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:17:29 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haunani Hess	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HCR40 and HR32. Our locally incarcerated can benefit from diverse, faith based outreach programs. The current system is obviously not enough to keep repeat offenders from making the same mistakes. The environment is appropriate for intensive approaches to rehabilitation. Native Hawaiians have the right to use Kapu Aloha to further the well being of others, no different than any other denomination intends to do. In fact, there's a much better chance that Kapu Aloha would be more successful with local populations in our correction facilities. I implore you to support these 2 bills, give it a chance.

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:23:31 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luella Nohea Crutcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear members of the CMV committee:

I recommend that HR32: Requesting the department of public safety to allow faith pods based on Kapu Aloha to be established within each correctional center, be adopted.

This is a excellent idea!

A way to support men and women who are incarcerated, to make positive changes in their lives, and hopefully change their habits, that will keep them from getting incarcerated again. In this group, they can be themselves, feel safe enough to express how they feel. Deal with anger issues and receive support. To learn how to live in a more positive way, and also to start looking at life in a positive way. The support they receive will give them the strength, through the fellowship, to continue these positive changes throughout their lifetime.

Respectfully,

Nohea

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:30:43 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support this measure. Connection to cultural identity goes a long way to help people turn their lives around.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

HCR-40

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:13:14 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/19/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HCR40. While best practices dictate that we concentrate our efforts on diversion and decarceration, as long as people are incarcerated in Hawai'i and private prisons on the continent, we must simultaneously provide meaningful rehabilitation opportunities for persons to transform their lives. Creating faith pods based on the guiding principle of "Kapu Aloha" would contribute to individual's personal growth within a historical and contemporary cultural context, and providing additional "tools" to enhance successful reentry when returning home.

Please support HCR 40.

Mahalo,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.