



LATE TESTIMONY

Via E-mail: PBSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 12, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
Place: Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of HB 413, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Hanohano and Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in strong support of HB 413, which establishes a state residential drug abuse program to help inmates’ reentry into the community.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to develop diversion programs and health-based solutions to individuals with drug addictions. In general, these types of programs are far more cost-effective – and far more effective at reducing recidivism – than incarceration, and they deserve the Legislature’s full support. Every effort should be made to provide Hawaii’s inmates with the support and services they need to become productive and responsible community members.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gluck
Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 12, 2009
9:15 AM
Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT

HB 413 - RDAP Reintegration Program at OCCC
PBSTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Aquino and Committee Members:

My name is Diana Bethel, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 413, which establishes a state RDAP (Residential Drug Abuse Program) Reintegration Program similar to the successful federal program.

The RDAP treatment programs offer inmates classes, but the program created by HB 413 enables inmates to reinforce and apply their learning in a supportive environment before being released into the community.

A business plan that maps out the details of operation and financial considerations of the program has been developed by a team from the UH Shidler College of Business. This program has been created with a great deal of thought and careful adoption of elements from similar programs at the federal level.

Hawaii should adopt and benefit from the innovative programs that have been successful elsewhere. Please support HB 413 and help give released inmates a better chance at reintegrating successfully into their communities.

Sincerely,

Diana Bethel
1441 Victoria St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822