
From: diasohana1@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 9:24 PM
To: JGO Testimony

LATE

Aloha,

We strongly support SB 619 SD 1. We would like to see inmates participate in voting and still be a part of society in a positive way. Establishing a connection may help with their transition back to society when the time comes.

Each person listed typed in his or her own name. I am the only one with email so they are sharing it.

Mahalo,

Mary K. Dias, Kekoa A. K. Dias, Keoki A. W. Dias, Earl Peahi Jr.

Also: Regina P. D. Taula, Raymond K. Taula

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Sen. Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair

Friday, March 6, 2009

11:00 AM

Room 016

STRONG SUPPORT

SB 619 SD1

JGOTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Committee Members:

My name is Diana Bethel, and I am writing in support of SB 619 SD1 which allows incarcerated persons who were Hawai'i residents at the time of their arrest to vote via absentee ballot in Hawai'i elections.

Giving inmates the right to vote would, I believe, provide a needed intellectual stimulus as well as a connection to the outside world that provide numerous benefits, all at no cost to the state. In the prison environment in which inmates have few or no educational opportunities, providing voting rights may engage inmates' minds and be an effective reentry strategy to instill a sense of civic responsibility, offer the experience of participatory democracy, and ultimately enhance public safety.

Please pass SB 619 SD1.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel

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