Chair Senator Espero
Vice Chair Senator Bunda
Members of Public Safety and Military Affairs



Chair Senator English
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Members of Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Aloha Senators,

My Name is Keala Kahuanui-Paleka. I here in support of HB 1818

I was locked up for 10 years in and out prison due to crime and drugs. It was up to me and other inmates to implement Hawaiian Values and practices to rediscover our Identity. By having more Hawaiian programs for many of the inmates transitioning back into the community, can help us all. 70% of inmates locked up in our prison are Native Hawaiian. We need these types of educational programs to keep Native Hawaiians rooted in our culture.

Currently I am a student I Kapiolani Community College and I am majoring in social work and minoring in Hawaiian studies. It was through Hawaiian education in which had helped me strive to better myself when transiting back to the community. But there are many more like me who need the guidance from kupunas and tutus.

I had the opportunity to join the crew of Hokulea and have been participating in all my cultural ethics. I also took up paddling and hula to implement my Hawaiian core values. I am continuing to follow after my ancestors' ways that made them pono. I am also a teacher of the traditional Hawaiian dance called Ai Ha'a. If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Mahalo nui loa,

Keala Kahuanui-Pelaka 8083545233