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HAWAII STATE SENATE – REGULAR SESSION 2010  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 31, 2010  
9:30 AM; Conference Rm. 211

HB 1818, HD2, SD1 – RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING

Co-Chairs Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, and Sen. Shan Tsutsui and Committee Members:

Aloha kakou. My name is Dante Keala Carpenter, Member-Advisor to ‘Ohana Ho’opakele. I speak in support of HB 1818, HD2, SD1 Relating to Cognitive Restructuring. Its purpose “is to insure that reentry/reintegration programs within Hawaii’s correctional facilities offer cognitive behavioral therapy with native Hawaiian holistic interventions to address domestic violence, addictions, self-mastery though identity, and community connections to promote the successful transition from incarceration to the community.”

President Sam Kaleleiki (Kupuna Sam) and the ‘*Ohana Ho’opakele* members, have a continuing and unwavering commitment and dedication to its mission and purpose: to advocate for alternatives to prisons in the form of *pu’uhonua* for *pa’ahao*. Literally *pu’uhonua* is defined in Pukui & Elbert’s Hawaiian Dictionary (1986) as a “sanctuary, refuge, asylum or place of peace & safety” for *pa’ahao* – prisoners, convicts and/or inmates. In modern vernacular it can best be defined or classified as a cultural wellness center with all that title entails.

To that end, the organization anticipates working with the Department of Public Safety and other restorative justice groups to utilize appropriate facilities as a *pu’uhonua* or wellness center for substance abuse treatment and intervention programs that take a holistic and cultural approach to help redirect the lives of those affected.

We strongly recommend passage of HB1818, HD2, SD1.

E laulima pu kakou! (Let’s all work together.) Mahalo a nui loa.