



Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**

**SB 986 SD2 HD1**

**Relating to the Criminal Justice System**

Submitted to: Committee on Judiciary

March 22, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

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Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the committee,

My name is Vanda Hanakahi and I am the Kiolo of Moloka'i, speaking on behalf of the Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee of which I am the Chair.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 986 SD 2 HD 1, the bill that establishes a task force to address and promote fairness within the criminal justice system.

We believe that this task force is truly necessary to reduce the unnecessary involvement of Native Hawaiians in the justice system. Through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs efforts, research has shown what Native Hawaiians already know – there is a lopsided quantity of Hawaiian inmates. Further, once incarcerated, the effects of the criminal justice system severely affect the inmate, his family, and his community with almost no chance of starting afresh after

We believe that this proactive task force is essential and we urge the passage of SB 986, SD 2 HD 1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Vanda Hanakahi, Chair

Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee

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LATE TESTIMONY