

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LATE TESTIMONY

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Joe W. Booker, Jr.
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3016 SD 2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

by

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Room 309

Chairs Aquino and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Cullen and Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 3016 SD2, and we believe that this program may be appropriate as part of the implementation of Justice Reinvestment Initiatives (JRI). The goal of JRI is to manage and allocate criminal justice populations by spending more cost-effectively, thereby generating cost-savings that can be reinvested through the development of alternative responses to crime without jeopardizing public safety to the community at large.

The future of the Kulani Correctional Facility has yet to be determined. PSD is in the process of developing its strategic plan, which will include the orderly development of statewide correctional facilities. It is through this process that PSD will develop and address the programmatic needs for Hawaii's offenders, which may include Pu'uhonua or a wellness center based on Hawaiian cultural practices; however, PSD is

mindful that inmates cannot be forced to participate in such a program, even if they are native Hawaiian, and cannot prevent inmates from participating in such a program even if they are not native Hawaiian.

The Hawaii Community Correctional Center on the Big Island is involved in working with community needs through community service projects, inmate work release, and furlough programs that are parallel to the goals and objectives of this measure.

PSD looks forward to working with 'Ohana Ho'opakele and other restorative justice groups as well as the public land development corporation to assessment the best location and methodology to implement Pu'uhonua or a wellness center based on Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the well-being of person, family, and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

LATE TESTIMONY

PBMtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 5:25 PM
To: PBMtestimony
Cc: puuhonua2@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB3016 on 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBM 3/15/2012 9:00:00 AM SB3016

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: June Y. Toguchi-Tassill
Organization: Ohana Hoopakele
E-mail: puuhonua2@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

I stand in strong support of SB3016. I am sure that once the Puuhonua is reestablish and the Hooponopono practice starts the success will be to all the people of Hawaii. The passage of this bill will help change the prison system both here and throughout the Nation. After the bill passed its second reading the news was picked up by Associated Press. It generated interest through 37 States and in Washington D.C. I'll say it again, many people across the country are watching us and again I will say once this is reestablished all of the people will win epically our future, the children of Hawaii, our future. For these reasons I stand in strong support.

Mahalo
Aunty June

March 23, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii State Senate Session of 2012
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Thursday, March 15, 2012
9:00 A.M. Conference Room 309
SB3016, In Support

To: The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

From: Laura Moa

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 3016

I would like to thank Representative Aquino, Representative Cullen, and the members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs for the privilege to share my testimony. My name is Laura Moa and I am an MSW student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. However, I would like to present my testimony to the committee as a Native Hawaiian citizen. It is with deep passion and conviction that I express my support for SB 3016. SB 3016 will further the efforts toward utilization of native Hawaiian cultural practices to promote healing and wellness within these islands.

Pu`uhonua represents a tangible and powerful link to native history and embodies spirituality and common practice which is culturally relevant in current times. The restoration of native Hawaiian practices through pu`uhonua offers vital importance to the efforts of preserving and renewing strong family bonds. Such efforts are symbolic of the fortitude and resilience of the Kanaka Maoli to restore wellness within their communities. Preparing a plan for the creation of a pu`uhonua system on a site such as Kulani could be a teaching tool for our keiki in respect to, environmental studies, community development, economic sustenance, and Hawaiian culture and healing.

Such a system would allow individuals an opportunity to heal through growth and transformation.

Practices, such as Ho`oponopono and pule, focus on aspects of forgiveness and connectedness. The use of these indigenous practices for preparatory treatment would promote reintegration into society for those incarcerated, thus increasing public safety. Ideals of indigenous justice, such as redemption, positively

March 23, 2012

encourage individuals to new learn skills and become better citizens. Program development on a site such as Kulani, with spiritual and historic value, can be useful to address problems such as substance abuse and rates of recidivism. Work release programs allow incarcerated individuals to connect with the land, increasing culturally relevant rehabilitation. Rehabilitation and reunification of incarcerated individuals would function to meet a need within the Hawaiian community to strengthen family structures and impact our community at large.

Therefore, it is with great fortitude and honor that I provide my support towards the utilization and propagation of such an important attribute of Hawaiian culture. I urge you to pass SB 3016. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Moa

TESTIMONY ON SB 3016 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

March 15, 2012

9:00 am

Conference Rm. 309

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. **My name is Stephen Morse, and I am here today to strongly support SB 3016** wearing two hats, one as the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC), and the other as the President and board member of a relatively new non-profit organization called, "Hawaii Prison News."

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for five Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. Our Neighborhood Place programs are unique among CAN prevention programs for two reasons: (1) they are the only places where children and families at risk of child abuse and neglect can get services without a referral or appointment and by simply knocking on the door; and (2) because many of the children and families we serve are Native Hawaiian, the NP services are culturally congruent, and for the most part, non-clinical.

Sadly, one of the biggest risk factors for child neglect in the Native Hawaiian families we serve is that one or both parents are absent because of incarceration. If we are going to break the cycle of incarceration and prevent the generational neglect of children within these families, we need to successfully reintegrate incarcerated parents into society, and more importantly, with their families and children. The present system is not working for Native Hawaiians. It is a revolving door for far too many offenders and ex-offenders. It's time we turn to more traditional ways to rehabilitate our pa`ahao, ways to help them heal and find their productive selves.

I'm also here to support the bill on behalf of Hawaii Prison News, a program that was formed by Hawaii prisoners incarcerated at Saguaro Community Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona, for the benefit of Hawaii prisoners everywhere. Several years ago when I was employed as the Lead Human Services Advocate for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, pa`ahao from Saguaro corresponded with me, asking for OHA's help to advocate for Hawaiian programs at Saguaro, including the establishment of a pu`uhonua facility that was separate but part of Saguaro CCC.

In trying to broaden support for these programs, I was able to contact at least 40 representatives of local prison advocacy and ministry groups, all of whom advocated for prison reform and the implementation of Hawaiian programs for Native Hawaiian offenders. In May 2008, with OHA's support, we brought all of these prison advocates and ministers together for the first time in an `Aha. The testimony from these advocates, several of whom are in this room today, was powerful.

After I retired from OHA in late 2008, pa`ahao at Saguaro called and asked me to help develop Hawaii Prison News on the outside. We recently printed and are distributing Volume 1 of a Hawaii Prison News Newsletter. We are attempting to distribute this newsletter to all prisoners incarcerated in local correctional facilities and at Saguaro. We hope this newsletter will be one of several new programs developed by HPN that will help successfully reintegrate Hawaii offenders and ex-offenders.

In conclusion, and the point I'm trying to make in this testimony is that there is tremendous support for the idea of developing pu'uhonua for Native Hawaiian inmates within the community, and most importantly, among those who will be served within the pu'uhonua, the pa'ahao themselves. We strongly recommend that in preparing this plan, the Legislature require the Department of Public Safety to include prison advocacy groups such as the Community Alliance on Prisons and Ohana Ho'opakele as members of the planning committee. We all stand ready to work with the Legislature and executive branch of government to make the plan called for in SB 3016 a reality.

Aloha and Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify this afternoon.