

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2629
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2629 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Create a Puuhonua Commission within the Department of Public Safety to assist formerly incarcerated persons to transition back into society in a beneficial way; and
- (2) Create a Puuhonua Commission Advisory Committee in each county to inform the Puuhonua Commission of the needs of probationers, parolees, and post-incarcerated persons within the county.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Community Alliance on Prisons; The Chow Project; Ho'omana Pono, LLC; Blueprint for Change; and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that the ancient Hawaiian concept of puuhonua, a place of refuge and healing, is applicable to formerly incarcerated persons re-integrating into society. Formerly incarcerated persons often face significant challenges, and lack of support can increase the likelihood of recidivism. The purpose of the Puuhonua Commission is to assist formerly incarcerated



persons in transitioning into society in a healthy, responsible manner.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appointing authority of some members of the county Puuhonua Commission Advisory Committees from the Governor to the mayor of the appropriate county; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2629, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2629, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs,


CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB2629	Committee Referral: PSM, WAM	Date: 2/2/16		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	/			
ESPERO, Will (VC)	/			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	/			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	/			
SLOM, Sam				/
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Will Espero</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes