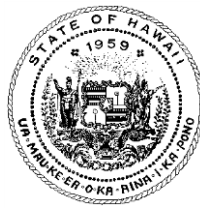




SB2629

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION.
Report Title:	Puuhonua Commission; Post-incarcerated Persons; Reintegration; Special Fund
Description:	Establishes the puuhonua commission within the department of public safety to help post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees reintegrate into society. Creates county advisory committees to advise the commission. Establishes a special fund.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	PSM, WAM
Introducer(s):	ESPERO, INOUE, SHIMABUKURO, Baker, Galuteria



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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn H. Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2629
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

By
Nolan P. Espinda, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2016; 1:20 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to provide comments to Senate Bill (SB) 2629.

PSD supports the principles of Puuhonua and has adopted many of its concepts into the range of reentry programs throughout the Hawaii's correctional system. In addition, the Department has supported Native Hawaiian cultural observances at the facilities, such as, Makahiki, which, as part of a culturally-based spiritual practice, instills cultural awareness, pride, and a renewed, positive sense of identity among the practitioners. Together, it is hoped that these programs will help offenders to more successfully transition back to the community.

The Report to the 2013 Legislature, made in response to Act 117, SLH 2012, "Wellness Center That Reestablishes Native Hawaiian Cultural Practices", asserted that PSD would "continue to work with participants in the 2012 Puuhonua Summit, including Ohana Hoopakele and other restorative justice groups, to prepare a plan for the creation of a puuhonua." The report further noted that this major undertaking would require PSD to also collaborate with the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Judiciary, Honolulu Police Department, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, etc.

The work done thus far would suggest a more modest approach to assuring progress in this important area. PSD would like to suggest that this measure be amended to add two members, appropriate to the qualifications described in the bill, to the existing Reentry Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2629

February 2, 2016

RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2629 establishes a nine-member Puuhonua Commission within the Department of Public Safety. The purpose of the commission is to work with post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees to assist these individuals in the transition post-incarceration period. The bill also establishes in each of the State counties a three-member Puuhonua Commission Advisory Committee to inform the Puuhonua Commission of the needs of probationers, parolees, and post-incarcerated persons within their respective counties. The commission and committee members are to serve without compensation, but reasonable and necessary expenses may be reimbursed to the members.

Additionally, S.B. No. 2629 establishes in the State treasury the Puuhonua Commission Special Fund to receive appropriations enacted by the Legislature and revenues from grants or donations made to the commission. The funds will be used to support the Puuhonua Commission and the Puuhonua Commission Advisory Committees.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the policy of the Puuhonua Commission, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of special funds which do not meet the

requirements of Section 37-52.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to this bill, it does not appear that the proposed special fund is self-sustaining.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/email: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

1:20 p.m.

Room 229

SUPPORT FOR SB 2629 - PU`UHONUA COMMISSION

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 6,000 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety. We are always mindful that approximately 1,400 of Hawai`i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2629 establishes the pu`uhonua commission within the department of public safety to help post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees reintegrate into society. Creates county advisory committees to advise the commission. Establishes a special fund.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports every effort to help people safely and smoothly transition from institutional to community life. We support programs that are based in Hawaiian values to help people reintegrate back to their communities.

Having county advisory committees is an important element as our people need the support of their communities when they return home.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: leilani.maxera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2629 on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 9:09:59 AM

SB2629

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY ON SB 2569 RELATING TO THE PU'UHONUA COMMISSION BEFORE
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 2, 2015

1:20 pm

Conference Rm. 229

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Espero, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SB 2629 Relating to the Pu`uhonua Commission.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for seven 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. The several varied risk factors in the families, including homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disabilities. Two years ago, after much research and analysis, BFC determined that one of the increasing risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that there is at least one parent who is incarcerated. Eighty percent of the families we serve across the State are of Native Hawaiian ancestry.

According to "The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System," Native Hawaiians make up 24 percent of the general population of Hawaii, but 27 percent of all arrests, 33 percent of people in pretrial detention, 29 percent of people sentenced to probation, 36 percent admitted to prison in 2009, 39 percent of the incarcerated population, 39 percent of releases on parole, and 41 percent of parole revocation.

In addition, key findings of the Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report in 2012 included the following: indigenous cultural practices present appropriate models in ameliorating the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on indigenous communities; the Native Hawaiian community and nations such as Aotearoa, Australia, and Canada have had recent successes in adopting indigenous cultural practices; culturally-based programs are effective and should be expanded upon; and there is no comprehensive directory of culturally-based programs and service providers for Native Hawaiians who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

We support SB 2629, because we believe there needs to be a leadership entity in the State that can set policy and coordinate a system of culturally integrated practices and services that will help successfully reintegrate Native Hawaiian offenders into society and reunify with their families. We believe this is a critical step in ending the cycle of incarceration in Native Hawaiian families.

Mahalo for allowing us to share this testimony with the Committee.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2629 on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:01:54 PM

SB2629

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We are in FULL SUPPORT of this bill, as it is about time that traditional healing/corrective methods of the host culture is utilized to assist in the corrective process within our correctional system. While, I believe that this bill does not go far enough to help improve our rehabilitative efforts in our corrections system, since there is no provision within this bill to allow the Pu`uhonua process into the corrections system from pre-trial through an offenders entire sentence. It still is a GREAT FIRST STEP, that allows the proponents to prove this Pu`uhonua process to be an effective aid to our correctional sysytem. WE SEEK THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL. Mahalo. FULL DISCLOSURE: Please note, that I am on the Pu`uhonua team that assisted in the creation of this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2629 on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:31:43 PM

SB2629

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments: I am in full support of this bill because it would give our prisoners their dignity back.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2629 on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:11:21 PM

SB2629

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [PSMTestimony](#)
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2629 on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 6:41:33 AM

SB2629

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov