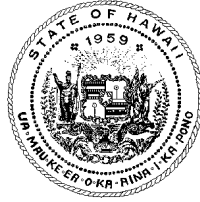


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25 /
SENATE RESOLUTION 14 –
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TO ALLOW FAITH PODS
BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH
CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 23, 2021; 1:10 p.m.
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 25 and Senate Resolution (SR) 14, which request PSD to allow faith pods based on Kapu Aloha to be established within each correctional center. The Department agrees with the value of this suggestion and has already begun the review process to determine if PSD can be allowed to establish faith pods in our facilities, and if so, what the process would entail, including consideration of the space requirements, funding needs, appropriate staffing levels, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

SCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:43:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2021 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Albertini	Testifying for Malu 'Aina	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Our organization is in strong support of SCR 25.

SCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:26:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2021 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Testifying for Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Chairman Senator Nishihara, Vice-chair Senator English and other members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

Mahalo especially to Senator Maile Shimabukuro for submitting this resolution in the Senate!

Ohana Ho`opakele strongly supports this resolution!

Organized in 2000 Ohana Ho`opakele has advocated for healing and rehabilitation of pa`ahao. Faith Pods based on Kapu Aloha will surely assist the disproportionately represented native Hawaiian population heal. It does not cost anything to begin, the Department of Public Safety has already expressed support for this, and our brothers in Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, AZ have experienced participating in Faith Pods. Even more important the experience on Mauna Kea has shown that Kapu Aloha has been experienced by more than 10,000 Hawaiians and has shown a miraculously calming and respectful atmosphere even in the midst of arrests.

Faith Pods based on Kapu Aloha in correctional centers in Hawaii will provide a safe space for pa`ahao entering the prison system for the first time, will provide a place where healing can begin at the beginning of incarceration and will introduce them to processes that could fully heal them in a pu`uhonua once they complete their incarceration period.

Mahalo for hearing this resolution! Please pass this resolution that would be a huge step in the direction of rehabilitating our pa`ahao!

Thank you for allowing us to testify in this manner!

SCR-25

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:03:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2021 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In opposition as it would pose First Amendment issues.

SCR-25

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:25:56 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2021 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaac Harp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair English, and Honorable Members of the PSM Committee,

I am seeking your support for HR32 and HCR40 to allow for Kapu Aloha based faith pods within Hawaii's correctional facilities.

With your support, a safe environment within Hawaii's correctional facilities to practice religious and cultural activities can become a reality. Allowing for the sharing and teaching of Kapu Aloha could result in a reduction of violence within Hawaii's correctional institutions and lower recidivism rates.

Mahalo for your time,

Isaac "Paka" Harp

P.O. Box 437347

Kamuela, HI 96743

(808) 756-7379

SCR-25

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 12:47:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2021 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaleihau Kamauu	Testifying for Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou:

My name is Euel Ray Kaleihau Kamauu. I write in strong support of SCR25 / SR14, URGING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FAITH PODS IN HAWAI`I'S PRISON SYSTEM, specifically at Halawa Medium Security Facility. I am an ex-pa`ahao (prisoner) having served over 30 years in Hawai`i's prison system. While incarcerated at Watonga Correctional Facility in Oklahoma I had the privilege of being a part of the Faith Pod there. It has strengthened me in ways beyond measure and though I continue in my struggles reintegrating it is my Faith, strengthened by values and standards gained by my time in the Faith Pod, that keeps me pushing forward in my new Life.

I have experienced the changes over the years in the prison system I have seen it go from an attitude of rehabilitation to one of retribution. The latter is not the answer.

I urge you to support this resolution for the sake of our future generation. Most pa`ahao will be released one day. It is in all of our best interest that they get out better individuals and not incapacitated, angry ex-cons thinking that the world owe them. Faith Pods will be a great first step in that direction.

Mahalo!

LATE

SCR-25

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 2:42:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2021 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luella Nohea Crutcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SCR25: Requesting the department of public safety to allow faith pods based on Kapu Aloha to be established within each correctional center.

This is a excellent idea!

A safe place to support men and women who are incarcerated, to make positive changes in their lives, and hopefully change their habits, that will keep them from getting incarcerated again. In this type of environment, they can be themselves, feel safe enough to express how they feel. Deal with anger issues and receive support. The opportunity to learn how to live in a more positive way, and also to start looking at life in a positive way. The support they receive will give them the strength, through the fellowship, to continue these positive changes throughout their lifetime.

Kapu Aloha, is about respect, acceptance, forgiveness, the highest level of love. The ability to listen to other points of view, and take what works for them and let go of what does not work.

Thankyou for your time, Luella Nohea Crutcher