



LATE TESTIMONY

House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

Committee on Public Safety
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2010
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, LOCAL 646, ON HCR
190/HR 123, URGING THE NATIONAL GUARD HAWAII YOUTH
CHALLENGE PROGRAM TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR ITS
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

The United Public Workers, Local 646, supports these resolutions.

To address the budget deficit, the Department of Public Safety closed Kulani Correctional Facility and now plans to use the facility for the Hawaii Youth Challenge Program. This decision is extremely shortsighted. Although it may save a few bucks in the short term, we'll pay more later in economic and human costs.

For a number of reasons including its isolated environment and supportive staff, Kulani's sex offender treatment program was the most successful in the nation with less than a two percent rate of recidivism. Now with inmates and staff dispersed to other facilities, one can only wonder about the treatment these inmates are receiving and their prognosis when they reenter society.

At a recent economic forum, economists agreed that spending cuts have only worsened the effects of the recession. We cannot continue to cut spending because this only furthers the negative impact on the economy, continuing the downward spiral. Economists also agreed that the recession has bottomed out. It will be just a matter of time before our economy starts growing significantly again. At that time, we hope Kulani can once again be the first rate correctional facility it once was.

For this reason we urge passage of these resolutions.

Maureen Andrade

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Kaneshi, Emerick Y CIV USA [emerick.kaneshi@us.army.mil]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 9:18 AM
To: PBStestimony
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: HCR190_DEF_03-18-10_PSM-EBM.doc

Testimony by MG Robert G. F. Lee, Adjutant General, is submitted for a hearing by PBS and EBM on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.

V/R

Emerick Kaneshi
672-1207

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 190
A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GUARD HAWAII YOUTH CHALLENGE
PROGRAM TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR ITS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

March 18, 2010

Chair Hanohano, Chair McKelvey and Committee members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Adjutant General, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 190 because we believe that the Kulani facility has a tremendous advantage over any other site on the island of Hawaii for the following reasons:

First, Kulani have the entire infrastructure (dormitories, classrooms, administrative offices, and athletic facilities) that is needed to operate a youth challenge academy. No major construction projects are required at Kulani only minor repair and maintenance projects.

Second, the National Guard Bureau (NGB), after their site visit, found the Kulani facilities to be perfect for a youth challenge academy, and have positioned Federal funds for the start up of the YCA program.

Lastly, the staff of the Department of Defense and Youth Challenge program surveyed other sites on the island of Hawaii and found they were lacking in some of the minimum requirements needed for a youth challenge academy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony that opposes this resolution.

Dante K. Carpenter
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LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – REGULAR SESSION 2010
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Saturday, March 18, 2010
11:30 AM; Conference Room 309

HCR 190 & HR 123 – URGING THE NATIONAL GUARD HAWAII YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR ITS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

Co-Chair Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Co-Chair Rep. Angus McKelvey and Committee Members:

Aloha kakou. My name is Dante Keala Carpenter, Member-Advisor to 'Ohana Ho'opakele. I speak in support of HCR 190 & HR 123 urging relocation of the National Guard Hawaii Youth Challenge Program (NGHYCP) on the Island of Hawaii.

Notwithstanding the commendable intentions of the NGHYCP, as a preventive versus remedial at-risk youth program for high-school dropouts, the most practical locations, such as the Kilauea Military Facility near the Hilo Airport or old Kaaau National Guard facility in Puna are both closer to the communities served and at site(s) which are within easy commutes.

'Ohana Ho'opakele has proposed to work with PSD and other restorative justice groups to utilize the Kulani Correctional Facility as a pu'uhonua or wellness center for substance abuse treatment and intervention programs that take a holistic and cultural approach to help redirect the lives of those affected.

Kulani Correctional Facility, appropriately isolated from the closest communities in Hilo and Puna, should continue to successfully serve a critical need for re-integrating *pa'ahao* back into communities in Hawai'i! This is in conjunction with the Community Safety Act of 2007, which requires the department to develop a comprehensive and effective offender reentry system plan for adult offenders exiting the prison system.

President Sam Kaleleiki (Kupuna Sam) and members continue an unwavering commitment to the mission and purpose of 'Ohana Ho'opakele: to advocate for alternatives to prisons in the form of *pu'uhonua* for *pa'ahao*. Literally *pu'uhonua* is defined in Pukui & Elbert's Hawaiian Dictionary (1986) as a "sanctuary, refuge, asylum or place of peace & safety" for *pa'ahao* – prisoners, convicts and/or inmates. In modern vernacular it can best be defined or classified as a cultural wellness center with all that title entails.

Obviously, any correctional complex or *pu'uhonua* should pose no threat to the community! Therefore, security classification of *pa'ahao* should be minimal, at best, as has been the past practice. Among other goals, the facility should incorporate in its design and operations, a fitting "work-place atmosphere" with establishment of programs incorporating the best agricultural model available coupled with established Hawaiian cultural teachings in order to approach self-sufficiency in production of necessary foodstuffs and respect of humanity. The programs would minimize costs to the taxpayer, provide opportunities to earn "good time," participate in vocation education training and prison industries, and support the facility's manpower needs, as well.

The above illustrates the very purpose of the Community Safety Act of 2007, which further requires PSD to develop comprehensive reentry plans and curricula for individuals exiting correctional facilities to reduce recidivism and increase a person's successful reentry and into the community.

One of 'Ohana Ho'opakele's goals would incorporate the return of deserving *pa'ahao* from mainland incarceration facilities which provide no opportunities to reduce recidivism, but rather encourage hardening and contributing to family disorientation, disintegration, and dissolution.

In a former role, I was the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman, which committee exercised oversight over Hawaii's Justice System, including operations of prison facilities. Without doubt, prison facilities and present activities, no matter how well-intended, still leaves a great deal to be desired regarding the rehabilitation and re-integration of *pa'ahao* back into the community. With the extreme shortage of special facilities such as Kulani, we strongly recommend its continued use as a minimum security facility for rehabilitation and reintegration purposes.

Finally, a recent and positive meeting with Lt. Governor Duke Aiona in which Kupuna Sam, Reverend Ron Fujii, Kini Burke bears on the above discussion. Lt. Governor Aiona encouraged the organization in its efforts with the *Pu'uhonua* Cultural Concept and its application. I believe 'Ohana Ho'opakele is on the right track in its efforts to undertake a difficult but necessary task and wish them well in their endeavors.

We strongly recommend adoption of HCR 190 and HR 123.

E laulima pu kakou! (Let's all work together.) Mahalo a nui loa.