

 **the Drug Policy Forum**
of hawai'i

LATE TESTIMONY

March 11, 2010

To: Representative Faye Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry Aquino, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Public Safety

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: SB 2768 SD2 Relating to Parole
Hearing: Thursday, March 11, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Room 309

Position: Concerns

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes with concerns on SB 2768 SD2 Relating to Parole. This measure allows HPA to use a continuum of administrative sanctions when a parolee violates a term or condition of parole.

DPFH supports the use of sanctions proportionate to the violation. We also support policies that allow parolees to earn lower levels of supervision as they demonstrate continued compliance.

We suggest the implementation of HOPE Parole, modeled after HOPE Probation, which has proven to be an effective program, reducing recidivism and reducing the commission of new crimes by those participating in the program.

DPFH is concerned that technical violations of parole can bring a maximum of a two-year prison term. Incarceration is an expensive option and should be used for the most serious violations. HPA should be encouraged to use more effective and less expensive options, such as community based drug treatment programs.

Our current budget crisis requires that Hawai'i focus on drug treatment and other programs instead of incarceration. Those programs are not only less expensive, but are more effective than incarceration in reducing recidivism rates. We encourage the committee to require that HPA use more effective ways of supervising people on parole; methods that lead to successful reintegration into the community.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

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