

## **Session II. Public Policies and Recommendations/Next Steps:**

- WHAT ARE THE 2 OR 3 PRIORITY PUBLIC POLICY AREAS FOR THIS GROUP?
  - Shift money from incarceration to reformed education
  - Enhance/encourage community engagement and civic literacy
  - How to involve people in decision making affecting their communities \
  - Comment: Today's process is in the same mold as the process that created the condition we're in. We need a "process transformation" that creates a safe place or structure to sustain dialogue and deliberation.
- WHAT NEXT STEPS ARE PROPOSED?
  - Don't let this stop.
- WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN NEXT TO ADDRESS THOSE PRIORITY POLICIES?
  - Process transformation: Some kind of deliberative forums to understand why policy process is not working and how we can change it
  - Civic engagement: Begin with both leadership conducting town hall meetings and having deliberative forums on important civic issues.
  - Reform education: Have a set of forums to discuss the essence of education and why we haven't attended to this essence
  - Build capacity in communities through community development and asset enhancement projects
  - Open doors for communities to become part of political and policy process
  - Make very real resource choices to shift money from incarceration to community empowerment
  - Use schools as community centers and provide adequate resources for total community participation
  - Create an acceptable model for policy development in Hawaii...The current system is broken, ineffective, ill informed, and incongruent with our fundamental values.
  - Rethink how policies are determined in very basic way
  - What are competing demands for resources
  - Change current structure

- Enhance community engagement
- Shift money from incarceration to education
- Begin an engagement strategy to define what public policy is
- Collect and generate information on those decisions we see as important to feed into the discussion
- Create a "safe"- "supportive" place for the discussion of change o take place
- WHO ELSE SHOUD BE INVOLVED?
  - Government/community/business/education leadership
  - Community leaders
  - Teachers in schools
  - Lawmakers
  - Public at large
  - Those directly impacted by decisions
  - This has been very theoretical and not practicable--legislators should be involved
  - Community groups and activists working to change the process and reach out to different and disenfranchised sectors
  - Direct community involvement, "pulse-taking"
  - Not government, but they should be aware of it
  - Include those impacted by policy in the conversation-
  - Unofficial community leaders (social groups) and not just elected or those who can afford it!
- HOW CAN THE PUBLIC POLICY CENTER HELP?
  - Start the process of bringing their issues to light and get leadership involved and conduct deliberative forum and conduct the necessary research/analysis.
  - Provide forum infrastructure and administrative labor to make this happen
  - Evaluate the role special interest power groups have in shaping policy, public opinion (media), etc.
  - Work out a specific issue
  - By encouraging a productive dialogue to identify problems, promoting positive restructuring of system for wider involvement, and advocating for policies to address REAL community needs and goals

- Provide the overhead capacity for this
- Create a new process--recognize that the current process is not sustainable enough to discuss sustainability