The class then watched and discussed the 2012 Sundance Film Festival award winning documentary *The House I Live In*, which chronicles the War on Drugs from President Nixon's declaration to today's mass incarceration, with the result that the United States imprisons a higher percentage of its population than China, North Korea, or the Soviet Union, - higher than any other country.

We then followed two of my drug sentencing cases starting with the pre-sentence report, multiple reversals by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, all the way to reported decisions in the United States Supreme Court: *U.S. v. Spears* (approving my policy disagreement with the 100:1 crack/powder ratio) and *U.S. v. Pepper* (approving my consideration of post-offense rehabilitation supporting a substantial downward variance.) Next, we examined the social, economic, and political ramifications of the War on Drugs and federal drug sentencing largely through selected law review articles. The last two class sessions focused on potential solutions to mass incarceration and suggested revisions to federal drug sentencing.

The highlight of my visit to the island was interacting with the diverse and thirsty-for-knowledge students. I was asked to reschedule my class from morning to evening to accommodate students in the evening program. What a terrific opportunity that presented. Not only did the evening and day students get to mix with and know each other, but the evening students, with their collective life and graduate school experiences, greatly enlivened our class discussions. One of the evening students is also working on a Ph.D. in psychology, and several had significant military experience. Having taught law students for over 30 years, I have never, ever, met a nicer, friendlier, better prepared, thoughtful, respectful, and more diverse class.

The last class (on a Saturday no less) was spent with the students divided into six groups brainstorming modifications to the existing federal sentencing scheme. The students were extremely respectful of their classmates' differing opinions and eager to work together - attributes not seen at every law school. Each of the six groups came up with differing, but intriguing and extremely thoughtful modifications. No far-out fixes like decriminalizing all drugs. Some of the more interesting suggestions included:
expanding the membership of the U.S. Sentencing Commission to add experts on drug treatment, addiction, and alternative community corrections;

legislation enabling federal courts to adopt the best practices of state drug courts;

dual track sentencing guidelines for non-violent and violent offenders; dramatic expansion of the current safety-valve;

eliminating or reducing mandatory minimum sentencing for non-violent low-level addicts;

treating drug offender addicts more as a public health and medical issue rather than the current emphasis on lengthy incarceration;

allowing judges and/or defense lawyers to move for substantial assistance reductions;

allowing substantial assistance reductions only for information higher up the drug chain;

requiring more evidence-based practices and scientific evidence in designing a new Drug Quantity Table; and

raising the standard for imposing drug quantities on defendants for the act of co-conspirators.

Fodder for a whole new course!

I was blessed and remain deeply grateful to have participated in this incredible J Term experience. I hope I have shed some light on the Marvel in Manoa.

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Hon. Mark W. Bennett is a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Iowa.