
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PAROLE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii paroling
2 authority, through its parole release programs, must continue to
3 strive to provide a meaningful opportunity for individual
4 offenders to successfully reintegrate into society while serving
5 their sentences. The legislature also finds that, in addition
6 to personal effort, offenders require active family and
7 community support, as well as employment and educational
8 opportunities to function as productive, law-abiding citizens.

9 In 1993, the legislature amended section 353-64, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes, to require the Hawaii paroling authority to
11 parole a prisoner in the county of original commitment if the
12 prisoner had a permanent residence and occupation or employment
13 or to a location outside the state, unless the prisoner would
14 reside in a county having a population greater than eight
15 hundred thousand persons. The rationale at the time was to
16 prevent the "mass release of parolees in the county where
17 confinement institutions are located." Section 706-670, Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes, was also amended in 1993 to include this



1 parole requirement because "otherwise, the location of new
2 prisons on the neighbor islands will be difficult or
3 impossible."

4 Accordingly, under existing law, a committed person is
5 paroled in the county where the committed person had a permanent
6 residence or occupation or employment prior to incarceration,
7 unless the committed person is to reside in a county in which
8 the population exceeds eight hundred thousand persons, or the
9 committed person is immediately released to another state. In
10 practical terms, the only county in the state in which the
11 population exceeds eight hundred thousand persons is the city
12 and county of Honolulu.

13 As a result of this requirement, the Hawaii paroling
14 authority is precluded from conducting an individualized
15 assessment and paroling of committed persons to the county where
16 they have the greatest support and opportunities to assist
17 offenders in making a successful transition into the community
18 upon their eventual release. The effect is that committed
19 persons who have family, children, community support,
20 employment, training, or educational opportunities in the
21 counties of Kauai, Maui, or Hawaii are prohibited from being
22 paroled to these counties, unless they had a permanent



1 residence, occupation, or employment in one of those counties
2 prior to incarceration.

3 A variety of studies have found that increased contact
4 between inmates and their families can contribute to an inmate's
5 successful reintegration into the community after release. In
6 making the transition back into the community, former inmates
7 turn to their families--spouses, parents, siblings,
8 grandparents, and others for assistance. These family members
9 become the "front line" of reentry, providing ex-offenders with
10 critical material and emotional support, including shelter,
11 food, clothing, leads for jobs, and guidance in staying sober or
12 avoiding criminal behavior. Significantly, successful
13 reintegration is an indicator of reduced risk of re-offense. In
14 turn, decreased recidivism rates benefit the entire people of
15 Hawaii.

16 The purpose of this Act is to grant the Hawaii paroling
17 authority the authority to parole committed persons to a county
18 in the state where the committed person has the greatest family
19 or community support; opportunities for employment; and access
20 to job training, education, treatment, and other social
21 services. This authority will enable the Hawaii paroling
22 authority to achieve its mission of providing meaningful



1 opportunities for offenders to reintegrate into society and
2 demonstrate that they have the potential to function as law-
3 abiding citizens.

4 SECTION 2. Section 353-64, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§353-64 Committed persons paroled. (a) Any committed
7 person confined in any state correctional facility in execution
8 of any sentence imposed upon the committed person, except in
9 cases where the penalty of life imprisonment not subject to
10 parole has been imposed, shall be subject to parole in a manner
11 and form as set forth in this part; provided that the committed
12 person shall be paroled in [~~the county where the committed~~
13 ~~person had a permanent residence or occupation or employment~~
14 ~~prior to incarceration, unless:~~

15 ~~(1) The committed person will reside in a county in which~~
16 ~~the population exceeds eight hundred thousand persons;~~
17 ~~or~~

18 ~~(2) The] a county in the state where the committed person~~
19 ~~has the greatest family or community support;~~
20 ~~opportunities for employment; and access to job~~
21 ~~training, education, treatment, and other social~~



1 services; or the committed person will be released for
2 immediate departure from the [~~State-~~] state.

3 Provided further that to be eligible for parole, the committed
4 person, if the person is determined by the department to be
5 suitable for participation, must have been a participant in an
6 academic, vocational education, or prison industry program
7 authorized by the department and must have been involved in or
8 completed the program to the satisfaction of the department; and
9 provided further that this precondition for parole shall not
10 apply if the committed person is in a correctional facility
11 where academic, vocational education, and prison industry
12 programs or facilities are not available. A grant of parole
13 shall not be subject to acceptance by the committed person.

14 (b) To be considered for parole to another county in the
15 state, the committed person shall provide a written request to
16 the department not less than six months prior to the expiration
17 of the committed person's longest minimum sentence. The request
18 will be forwarded to the Hawaii paroling authority for review
19 and consideration. The Hawaii paroling authority may consider
20 the committed person's request for parole in the alternate
21 county provided that the Hawaii paroling authority finds that
22 the committed person's overall level of community and family



1 support in the requested county will provide the committed
2 person with the greatest opportunity to succeed if the privilege
3 of parole is later granted. The department may relocate the
4 committed person to ensure that the sequential phasing process
5 of programs for the committed person is not interrupted.

6 (c) Upon a determination by the Hawaii paroling authority
7 that a committed person may be paroled to another county in the
8 state where the committed person has the greatest family or
9 community support; opportunities for employment; and access to
10 job training, education, treatment, and other social services,
11 the committed person shall bear all responsibility for all costs
12 associated with the change of county, including travel, lodging,
13 and meals."

14 SECTION 3. Section 706-670, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (3) to read as follows:

16 "(3) Prisoner's plan and participation. Each prisoner
17 shall be given reasonable notice of the prisoner's parole
18 hearing and shall prepare a parole plan, setting forth the
19 manner of life the prisoner intends to lead if released on
20 parole, including specific information as to where and with whom
21 the prisoner will reside and what occupation or employment the
22 prisoner will follow. The prisoner shall be paroled [~~in the~~



1 ~~county where the prisoner had a permanent residence or~~
2 ~~occupation or employment prior to the prisoner's incarceration,~~
3 ~~unless the prisoner will reside in a county in which the~~
4 ~~population exceeds eight hundred thousand persons,] to a county~~
5 in the state where the committed person has the greatest family
6 or community support; opportunities for employment; and access
7 to job training, education, treatment, and other social
8 services; or the prisoner will be released for immediate
9 departure from the [State-] state. The institutional parole
10 staff shall render reasonable aid to the prisoner in the
11 preparation of the prisoner's plan and in securing information
12 for submission to the authority. In addition, the prisoner
13 shall:

- 14 (a) Be permitted to consult with any persons whose
15 assistance the prisoner reasonably desires, including
16 the prisoner's own legal counsel, in preparing for a
17 hearing before the authority;
- 18 (b) Be permitted to be represented and assisted by counsel
19 at the hearing;
- 20 (c) Have counsel appointed to represent and assist the
21 prisoner if the prisoner so requests and cannot afford
22 to retain counsel; and



1 (d) Be informed of the prisoner's rights as set forth in
2 this subsection."

3 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun, before its effective date.

6 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Hawaii Paroling Authority; Parole; Parolees

Description:

Authorizes the Hawaii paroling authority to parole committed persons to any county in the state where they will receive the greatest support to successfully reintegrate into the community.

(HB624 HD1)

