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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE  
FEASIBILITY OF A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALING PROGRAM THAT  
EMPHASIZE THE PRACTICE OF HO'OPONOPONO AND THE CONCEPT OF  
PU'UHONUA FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND PAROLEES TO FACILITATE THEIR  
REHABILITATION AND REENTRY INTO SOCIETY AND TO REDUCE  
RECIDIVISM.

1           WHEREAS, according to Department of Public Safety  
2 statistics published in 2005, approximately forty-four per cent  
3 of female offenders and thirty-seven per cent of male offenders  
4 are of Native Hawaiian ancestry; and

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6           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians cultural practices include the  
7 principle of ho'oponopono, or the act of righting a wrong through  
8 traditional means of conflict resolution; and

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10           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians cultural practices include the  
11 concept of pu'uhonua, or place of refuge, where one who breaks  
12 the kapu, or rules, can go to avoid punishment, and after making  
13 the required restitution, can return home; and

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15           WHEREAS, healing programs based on Native Hawaiian  
16 practices have already proven to be effective, such as the  
17 Girls' Court Program, a gender-specific and strength-based  
18 program targeting female juvenile offenders, which was granted  
19 the unique opportunity to volunteer on Kaho'olawe, where they  
20 lived together, shared and restored the land by planting native  
21 species of vegetation, cleared trails and paths, and learned  
22 about the island's history; and

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24           WHEREAS, these young women benefited personally,  
25 spiritually, and educationally from this unique experience  
26 through learning about their culture, providing community  
27 service, and self-discovery about their young womanhood; and

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1           WHEREAS, a healing program for ex-offenders and parolees  
2 targeted at healing and teaching Native Hawaiian traditions and  
3 cultural practices would greatly benefit these individuals who  
4 could also develop self worth and pride in their culture by  
5 increasing their knowledge and providing a purpose for  
6 themselves, their families, and for future generations of  
7 Hawaii's people; and  
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9           WHEREAS, this program could teach participants life skills  
10 with an emphasis on Native Hawaiian cultural traditions, and  
11 help them become acquainted or reacquainted with their rich  
12 heritage; now, therefore,  
13

14           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Kaho'olawe Island  
17 Reserve Commission, with the assistance of the Department of  
18 Public Safety, convene a task force to study the feasibility of  
19 a statewide healing program for ex-offenders and parolees that:  
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- 21           (1) Emphasizes Native Hawaiian practices;  
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23           (2) Includes the practice of ho'oponopono and the concept  
24 of pu'uhonua;  
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26           (3) Establishes a pu'uhonua on each island to facilitate  
27 ho'oponopono; and  
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29           (4) Considers the possibility of a reciprocal healing  
30 program on Kaho'olawe; and  
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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
33 representatives of the following entities:  
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- 35           (1) Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission;  
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37           (2) The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;  
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39           (3) The Department of Public Safety;  
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41           (4) The Department of Human Services;  
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43           (5) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and



1  
2 (6) Any other vested stakeholder these entities see fit;  
3 and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be open to  
6 ex-offender and parolees who exhibit interest in and ability to  
7 benefit from what would be a physically, mentally, and  
8 spiritually challenging experience; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force look at  
11 expanding existing programs and establishing new programs to  
12 meet the needs of ex-offender and parolee populations throughout  
13 the State; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider the  
16 possible use of a reciprocal healing program at Kaho'olawe that  
17 would not require the construction of a correctional facility or  
18 any other additional facilities and would fully comply with  
19 chapter 6K, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Title X of the 1993  
20 Department of Defense and Appropriations Act; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Department of Public Safety is  
23 requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the  
24 establishment of the task force requested by this measure,  
25 including but not limited to any recommendations of the task  
26 force no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
27 Regular Session of 2008; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public  
31 Safety, the Director of Human Resources, the Chairperson of the  
32 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the  
33 Chairperson of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, and the  
34 Chairperson of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

