
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that native Hawaiians
2 comprise a disproportionate number of persons incarcerated in
3 Hawaii's jails and prisons. Approximately forty-five per cent
4 of the inmate population identify themselves as part- or native
5 Hawaiian. However, anecdotal evidence indicates a higher
6 percentage of incarcerated native Hawaiians. Compared to other
7 ethnic groups in Hawaii, native Hawaiians report dismal
8 socioeconomic and physical health indicators, which are often
9 magnified in a correctional setting. Moreover, the frustration
10 of native Hawaiians who are incarcerated in local and out-of-
11 state correctional facilities can be exacerbated by a lack of
12 cultural sensitivity during communication or problem solving
13 processes or during participation of programs that do not
14 incorporate culturally appropriate or culturally relevant
15 practices. Accordingly, the legislature finds that there is a
16 need to pay closer attention to the needs of native Hawaiians
17 who are incarcerated in the State's correctional system and



1 affirm the State's commitment to promoting the health and well-
2 being of native Hawaiians.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund one full
4 time equivalency position, a native Hawaiian affairs manager,
5 within the department of public safety to engage understanding
6 of, promote sensitivity to, and incorporate culturally
7 appropriate processes, programs, and services for, incarcerated
8 native Hawaiians.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 **"§353- Native Hawaiian affairs manager; establishment**
13 **and duties.** (a) There is established one full-time equivalency
14 position, a native Hawaiian affairs manager, within the office
15 of the director of public safety to engage understanding of,
16 promote sensitivity to, and incorporate culturally appropriate
17 processes, programs, and services, for incarcerated native
18 Hawaiians.

19 (b) The native Hawaiian affairs manager shall:

20 (1) Advise the director of public safety on matters
21 negatively affecting the well-being of incarcerated



- 1 native Hawaiians and propose options and solutions to
2 mitigate negative outcomes;
- 3 (2) Collaborate with the department of health, the office
4 of Hawaiian affairs, and other public, private, and
5 not-for-profit organizations to assure the well-being
6 of incarcerated native Hawaiians by coordinating
7 information, consultation, services, and opportunities
8 for resolving issues that negatively impact native
9 Hawaiian offenders; and
- 10 (3) Pursue opportunities for training, research, and
11 information exchange about the cultural practices of
12 native populations in correctional settings, and
13 consider ways to incorporate native Hawaiian cultural
14 practices through a continuum of culturally
15 appropriate and culturally relevant correctional and
16 reentry programs."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000, or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
20 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2008-2009, for one full-time equivalency position, a native
22 Hawaiian affairs manager, within the department of public safety



1 for the costs of salary, fringe benefits, equipment, supplies,
2 and other items needed to carry out the purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

7

INTRODUCED BY:

<u>Mel Carroll</u>	<u>Cindy Arons</u>
<u>Ray Hunter</u>	<u>Shirley</u>
<u>Mark A.</u>	<u>Emily</u>
<u>Sylvia B. Berg</u>	<u>John</u>
<u>AM</u>	<u>John</u>
<u>Robert D. Spivey III</u>	<u>Pat</u>
	<u>Norman Snow</u>

JAN 24 2007



Report Title:

Native Hawaiians; Corrections; Health

Description:

Establishes one full-time equivalency position within the department of public safety for a native Hawaiian affairs manager. Appropriates \$150,000 for salary, fringe benefits, equipment, and supplies.

