
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 compose 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 in 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 equivalent native Hawaiian affairs manager position within
5 the department of public safety to engage understanding of;
6 promote sensitivity to; and incorporate culturally appropriate
7 processes, programs, and services for incarcerated native
8 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 equivalent
14 native Hawaiian affairs manager position within the office of
15 the director to engage understanding of; promote sensitivity to;
16 and incorporate culturally appropriate processes, programs, and
17 services for incarcerated native Hawaiians.

18 (b) The native Hawaiian affairs manager shall:

19 (1) Advise the director on matters adversely affecting the
20 well-being of incarcerated native Hawaiians and
21 propose options and solutions to mitigate negative
22 outcomes;



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

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2008-2009 for one full-time equivalent native Hawaiian affairs
20 manager position within the department of public safety for the
21 costs of salary, fringe benefits, equipment, supplies, and other
22 items needed to carry out the purposes of this Act.



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

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Native Hawaiians; Corrections; Health

Description:

Establishes one full-time equivalent native Hawaiian affairs manager position within the department of public safety. Appropriates \$150,000 for salary, fringe benefits, equipment, and supplies. (HB1734 HD1)

