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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRISONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's prison  
2 system is bursting at the seams with a swelling inmate  
3 population. Since 1995, the department of public safety has  
4 been transporting prisoners to facilities in Oklahoma, Texas,  
5 Oregon, Minnesota, Arizona, and Tennessee. Approximately  
6 eighteen hundred Hawaii inmates are housed in out-of-state  
7 correctional facilities each year. That number is nearly half  
8 of the Hawaii prison population. Although this is a temporary  
9 solution, the State cannot afford to transport inmates to  
10 mainland facilities indefinitely.

11           According to the department of public safety's 2004 annual  
12 report, forty-one per cent of male inmates and forty-four per  
13 cent of female inmates are classified as minimum-security or  
14 community-custody-level inmates.

15           However, due to budget constraints, Hawaii has only two  
16 minimum-security prisons, Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu



1 and Kulani correctional facility on the island of Hawaii. Both  
2 Waiawa and Kulani often exceed their operational capacity.

3 The legislature finds that a study is needed to determine  
4 the best possible sites in the state for a new minimum-security  
5 prison facility.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
7 public safety to conduct a study to determine the best possible  
8 sites in the state for a new minimum-security prison facility.

9 SECTION 2. (a) The department of public safety shall  
10 undertake a study that will include:

11 (1) Projections of the housing needs for the minimum-  
12 security inmate population over the next four years  
13 broken down by island, community, and in what prison  
14 facilities they will be housed;

15 (2) The recommended maximum size of a minimum security  
16 prison facility and the corresponding land size to  
17 meet requirements, with the goal of establishing and  
18 enacting best management practices and operational  
19 efficiencies; and

20 (3) A determination of what island should be the first to  
21 build a new minimum-security prison, including:



1 (A) Recommendations for a proposed site on the  
 2 selected island; and

3 (B) A report on steps to acquire the site and  
 4 associated costs for the department to pursue  
 5 community outreach, environmental assessments,  
 6 and plans and design;

7 (b) The department of public safety shall complete the  
 8 study mandated in subsection (a) by December 15, 2007, and shall  
 9 submit a report to the legislature of its findings and  
 10 recommendations no later than January 1, 2008, including any  
 11 proposed legislation to implement the recommendations found in  
 12 the report.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
 16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 17 2008-2009 for the department of public safety to conduct a study  
 18 to determine the best possible sites in the state for a new  
 19 minimum-security prison facility.

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

22 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Prison Study; New Prison Facility

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Public Safety to conduct a study to determine the best possible sites in the state for a new minimum-security prison facility by December 15, 2007. Requires that a report be made to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.  
(HB3 HD1)

