

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that restorative circles  
2 is a pilot program that has been in place at the Waiawa  
3 correctional facility since March 2005. The program is based on  
4 the methodological tool known as "restorative justice," which  
5 aims to address the unresolved issues faced by victims,  
6 offenders, and their families. The program brings together  
7 victims, offenders, and their personal supporters in a carefully  
8 managed, safe environment. The process is both a powerful  
9 healing tool and a way to empower victims to make decisions  
10 about how to repair the harm caused by offenses.

11           Participation in the program is voluntary and only  
12 available to victims who want to participate and to inmates who  
13 want to reconcile with their victims. The process begins when  
14 an inmate requests a "restorative circle" from the inmate's case  
15 worker. A restorative circle is a group process that requires  
16 an impartial, trained, and experienced community facilitator to  
17 meet with the inmate. The facilitator and the inmate discuss



1 the protocol, and determine who the inmate has harmed by the  
2 inmate's past behavior and who the inmate wants to invite for  
3 support. Each restorative circle lasts about three hours, with  
4 half of the time devoted to reconciliation and the other half  
5 devoted to developing a reentry transition plan. To date, there  
6 have been approximately twenty-seven restorative circles with a  
7 one hundred per cent satisfaction rate reported by the  
8 participating victims, offenders, and prison staff.

9 This innovative Hawaii pilot program has been highlighted  
10 in the *Federal Probation Journal*, *Honolulu Magazine*, and by KITV  
11 News. The program recently expanded to the women's community  
12 correctional center. Considering that ninety-five per cent of  
13 all inmates will eventually be released back into the community,  
14 a program such as this one is vital because it helps an offender  
15 take responsibility for past behavior and plan for release.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
20 2008-2009 for the expansion of the restorative circles pilot  
21 program to other correctional facilities statewide.



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

3           SECTION 3. The department of public safety shall contract  
4 the services of a health and human services provider to  
5 establish restorative circles pilot programs in other  
6 correctional facilities statewide. The contract shall be  
7 executed in accordance with chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised  
8 Statutes.

9           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Inmates; Restorative Circles

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the expansion of the restorative circles pilot program to correctional facilities statewide. (HB5 HD1)

