
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to the
2 department of public safety, Hawaii parolees incarcerated in the
3 State had a deplorable recidivism rate of between forty-seven
4 and fifty-seven per cent. The recidivism rate for inmates who
5 were housed at out-of-state facilities was even higher, ranging
6 from fifty to seventy-eight per cent. A promising approach to
7 reducing recidivism and helping inmates make the successful
8 transition from prison to the community is to establish a
9 cognitive restructuring and transition program at correctional
10 facilities statewide.

11 Cognitive restructuring is based on the principle that
12 thinking, an internal behavior, controls overt actions, an
13 external behavior. Cognitive restructuring focuses on the way
14 thoughts and beliefs drive a person's behavior. A cognitive
15 restructuring program for inmates involves self-examination of
16 their belief system, criminal addictive cycle, attitudes and
17 thinking patterns, and develops a relapse prevention plan for
18 future situations. The program assists offenders in



1 "restructuring" their thought process and teaches cognitive
2 skills that help them with basic decision-making and problem-
3 solving. The goal of cognitive restructuring is to guide
4 offenders to consciously examine their own thoughts by engaging
5 in processes that develop self control, thus making them
6 responsible for, and in charge of, their actions no matter how
7 stressful the situation.

8 The legislature further finds that transition programs
9 prepare an inmate to make a successful transition from prison to
10 the community by assisting them with skills to find housing,
11 prepare for employment, learn money management, and obtain
12 support from other resources to become productive, law-abiding
13 citizens.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
15 establish cognitive restructuring and transition programs to
16 help inmates achieve a successful transition into the community.

17 SECTION 2. The cognitive restructuring and transition
18 programs shall teach specific skills that include problem
19 solving, social skills training, anger management, and empathy
20 training.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$210,000, or so much



H.B. NO. 919

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
 2 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 3 2008-2009, to establish cognitive restructuring and transition
 4 programs at correctional facilities statewide.

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

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures]
 Tom Brown
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Report Title:

Corrections; Transition Programs; Cognitive Restructuring

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of public safety to provide cognitive restructuring and transition programs statewide.

