
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 the existing gender-
2 responsive community based programs for women and girls
3 throughout the State are inadequate.

4 The legislature further finds that community-based programs
5 are less costly and more effective than incarceration in
6 overcrowded correctional facilities in the State or sending
7 female prisoners to out-of-state correctional facilities.

8 Among Hawaii residents in correctional facilities, twelve
9 per cent are female, which is more than twice the national
10 average. The juvenile female offender population accounts for
11 almost twenty per cent of the incarcerated youth population.

12 In Hawaii, instruments and protocols for adult incarcerated
13 offenders are primarily designed to address the needs of medium-
14 security violent males. Research has shown that the majority of
15 female offenders are non-violent and it is more appropriate to
16 include them in gender-responsive community based programs.



1 Data from the department of public safety shows that women
2 are incarcerated at almost twice the rate of men. From
3 January 1, 2001, to February 25, 2002, the population of
4 incarcerated males rose 6.7 per cent, while the incarcerated
5 female population rose 12.4 per cent. From January 1, 2001, to
6 November 17, 2003, the population of incarcerated males rose
7 15.4 per cent, while the incarcerated female population rose
8 28.8 per cent.

9 While there are eight times as many men as women in Hawaii
10 prisons as women, the number of incarcerated women is rising at
11 a substantially faster rate than the rate of incarcerated men.
12 From January 1, 2001, to January 19, 2004, the number of female
13 inmates in state facilities grew by 32.8 per cent, while the
14 male population rose 9.8 per cent. From January 1, 2001, to
15 January 19, 2004, the number of female parole violators rose
16 thirty per cent, while male parole violators rose 18.3 per cent.

17 According to the department of public safety's statistics
18 for the year 2000, sixty per cent of the incarcerated females
19 have at least one child. Research has shown that girls whose
20 mothers are in prison are at greater risk of following in their
21 mother's footsteps.



1 Pathways to crime are different for women and girls than
2 they are for men and boys. Incarcerating women and girls in
3 environments that are designed primarily for men and boys
4 without appropriate programs to address their needs has resulted
5 in recidivism caused primarily by parole violations and minor
6 offenses.

7 Women and girls need comprehensive reentry services and
8 community wrap-around services with case management services.
9 Effective programs link substance abuse, criminal justice,
10 public health, housing, and employment services.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
12 department of public safety and the office of youth services for
13 the expansion of gender-responsive community based programs for
14 women and girls.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to the
18 department of public safety for the expansion of gender-
19 responsive community based programs for incarcerated women.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 public safety.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to the
4 office of youth services for the expansion of gender-responsive
5 community based programs for incarcerated girls.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
7 youth services.

8 SECTION 4. The department of public safety and the office
9 of youth services shall submit a report to the legislature not
10 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
11 session of 2008. The report shall include information on the
12 impact of the expansion of the gender-responsive community based
13 programs for women and girls, the adequacy of program funding
14 and, if necessary, a request for additional funding, and
15 recommendations, including proposed legislation.

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



Report Title:

Public Safety; Gender Responsive Community Based Programs for Women and Girls

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of public safety and the office of youth services for the expansion of gender-responsive community based programs for women and girls. (SD1)

