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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO EXAMINE THE RATIONALE AND  
MANAGEMENT OF THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY.

1 WHEREAS, parole provides an opportunity for a convicted  
2 felon to serve a portion of his or her sentence in the community  
3 as long as the offender abides by certain conditions; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the concept of parole has been a controversial one  
6 ever since it was effectuated in Hawaii; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Paroling Authority is an agency  
9 administratively attached to the Department of Public Safety and  
10 is run by a three-person board, with a full-time chairperson and  
11 two part-time members; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Paroling Authority is responsible for  
14 setting the minimum terms that convicted offenders must serve  
15 before being considered for release on parole if those minimum  
16 terms have not been set by the courts; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the decisions made by the Hawaii Paroling  
19 Authority in particular cases have occasionally raised questions  
20 about the rationale for the agency's existence or its  
21 effectiveness; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the decisions made by the Hawaii Paroling  
24 Authority in releasing offenders into the community  
25 significantly affect the safety and welfare of the public; now,  
26 therefore,  
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
30 that the Auditor is requested to examine the rationale for the  
31 creation of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and audit the  
32 management and programs of the agency; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the examination and audit  
35 include, at a minimum:  
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- 1 (1) The problems that the establishment of the Hawaii  
2 Paroling Authority were intended to solve;
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- 4 (2) The objectives that the legislation establishing the  
5 Hawaii Paroling Authority sought to achieve;
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- 7 (3) An estimate of how successfully those objectives have  
8 been met;
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- 10 (4) A comparison with other jurisdictions' approach to the  
11 same problems;
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- 13 (5) The efficacy of the board of the Hawaii Paroling  
14 Authority; and
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- 16 (6) The effectiveness and accountability with which staff  
17 of the Hawaii Paroling Authority are managed; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor submit a report of  
20 its findings and recommendations to this body at least twenty  
21 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the  
25 Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and the Auditor.