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SENATE RESOLUTION 75

RESPONSE FROM THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY Max Otani, Administrator

September 10, 2010

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) is providing a response to the requested information in Senate Resolution No. 75 (SR 75).

 "...identify up to five hundred non-violent inmates by October 1, 2010 who could be involved in a day reporting center and/or also be monitored through twenty-four hours/seven days a week GPS electronic means..."

Response:

This request does not identify if the intent of SR 75 is to release inmates on furlough or on early parole. If the intent were to consider furlough placement, the Department of Public Safety would be responsible for this task, as HPA has no authority over the movement and placement of inmates. Generating a list of 500 inmates who are close to their parole hearing date would not be difficult, however, the process of determining appropriateness of parole release can be labor intensive and time consuming. HPA currently sees approximately 200 inmates per month that are eligible for parole, of which approximately one-third are granted parole release. Issues such as prison adjustment; program completion, verifiable residence and legitimate income are some of the other issues that must be reviewed and considered before release is considered. Victim right's issues must also be addressed when release is considered. Although a list could be generated, it would not ensure these inmates would be released, as each inmate would be required to be interviewed by the parole board.

2. (1) The number of paroles revoked for technical violations and the nature of those violations.

Response:

In the months of June 2010, July 2010 and August 2010 there were a total of 73 parolees that had their parole revoked due to violation of their parole conditions. Of the parolees that had their parole revoked, over 50% had one or more violations for substance abuse use, mainly methamphetamine. Other significant violations were failing to report to their parole officer as instructed and failing to keep their parole officer informed of residence.

Please be advised that HPA can only respond to parts of SR 75 that pertain to parole. Information requested regarding inmate management will need to be obtained from the Department of Public Safety.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, I can be reached at 587-1300.

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