

MAR - 1 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STAND-
ALONE REENTRY CENTER IN HONOLULU FOR RECOVERING CRIMINAL
OFFENDERS, WHICH IS TO INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL AND DAY-
REPORTING PROGRAM OPTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, reentry is an affordable, yet effective, process
2 to promote public safety through collaborative partnerships that
3 reflect a seamless system ensuring all returning offenders are
4 law-abiding, productive community citizens; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the State currently assumes responsibility for
7 over 6,000 incarcerated individuals, an eighteen percent
8 increase since fiscal year 2000, approximately 1,600 of whom
9 remain housed in mainland prisons across the continental United
10 States; and
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12 WHEREAS, in 2012, two Justice Reinvestment Initiative
13 measures were enacted as Acts 139 and 140, Session Laws of
14 Hawaii 2012, to increase the efficiency of Hawaii's correctional
15 system by limiting the maximum probation term for certain Class
16 B and Class C felonies, providing for intensive data-driven
17 analyses by the Council of State Governments Justice Center,
18 bringing home out-of-state prisoners, reducing corrections
19 spending, reinvesting in effective strategies for reduced crime
20 and recidivism, mandating reasonable timeframes for pre-trial
21 risk assessments, requiring validation for these pre-trial risk
22 assessments, limiting incarceration periods for first-time
23 parole violators, and increasing restitution payments deducted
24 from inmate earnings; and
25

26 WHEREAS, reentry facilities house offenders in transitional
27 environments while they learn to reengage with the community,
28 find employment, and become familiar with the social services
29 that will allow them to regain law abiding and productive
30 lifestyles; and



1
2 WHEREAS, community-based reentry centers are ideal short-
3 term placement options for offenders scheduled for release upon
4 serving non-violent, non-sexual sentences at longer term
5 institutions, requiring readjustment after violating community
6 supervision terms or assigned from local detention, courts, or
7 other proper jurisdictions; and
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9 WHEREAS, recidivism rates have been consistently
10 demonstrated by reentry centers across the nation to decrease by
11 more than fifty percent, over five year periods, when compared
12 against baseline recidivism rates associated with traditional
13 incarceration; and
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15 WHEREAS, community-directed housing facilities are
16 significantly more cost-effective than hard bed incarceration;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, reentry centers provide a realistic mechanism for
20 the Governor to address his goal of returning inmates on the
21 mainland to Hawaii, since the one-time total architectural and
22 engineering construction costs for a reentry facility able to
23 accommodate five hundred live-in residents through a public-
24 private partnership is estimated to be \$45,000,000, the
25 equivalent to the cost of housing Hawaii inmates on the mainland
26 for a single year; and
27

28 WHEREAS, existing reentry processes in Hawaii operate
29 through each prison, retaining offenders among the criminal
30 elements reminiscent of their imprisonment terms; whereas a
31 stand-alone reentry program would, by contrast, introduce
32 recovering offenders to a more auspicious environment,
33 facilitated by reentry specific case managers, counselors, job
34 development specialists, medical professionals, maintenance
35 staff, and security; and
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37 WHEREAS, proposed reentry initiatives highlight a "Three
38 Phase Progressive Living" structure including: (1) intake
39 processing periods not to exceed thirty days; (2) reentry
40 readiness instructional programming and community service; and
41 (3) community reintegration including financial
42 responsibilities, counseling, and work experience; and
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1 WHEREAS, a day reporting program component overseeing
2 nonresidential ex-offenders who continue treatment programs at
3 the center around their work schedules would prove an invaluable
4 addition to a reentry center for little additional cost; and
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6 WHEREAS, day reporting programs provide almost daily
7 contact between offenders and their supervising staff members,
8 as well as intense individual and group counseling, drug
9 testing, and flash incarceration for those demonstrating
10 reemerged criminal behavior; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
15 Public Safety be encouraged to consider the construction and
16 operation of a stand-alone community reentry center in Honolulu
17 for non-violent, non-sexual offenders returning to the community
18 after completing terms of incarceration or returning to custody
19 after violating their terms of parole; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reentry programs may include
22 residential and non-residential programs for fully supervised
23 offenders and a day reporting program designed to accommodate
24 the schedules of reintegrated offenders living and working in
25 the community; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
29 Director of Public Safety.
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OFFERED BY: Will Sykes

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