

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in ancient Hawaii
2 specific sites were set aside in each district and designated as
3 places of refuge. These sites, known as puuhonua, were used as
4 sanctuaries for women, children, old or ailing men in times of
5 war; vanquished warriors fleeing from their would be
6 annihilators; criminals fleeing from revengeful pursuers; and
7 law breakers fleeing from punishment. The puuhonua were
8 inviolable and their protection extended to the guilty as well
9 as the innocent. These sanctuaries further served as healing
10 centers and were a safe, secure area intended to provide a haven
11 and positive benefit for those utilizing them.

12 The legislature further finds that the concept of puuhonua
13 can be revitalized within today's correctional system to support
14 men and women who have previously made wrong decisions in their
15 lives. The legislature additionally finds that puuhonua should
16 be incorporated into the State's judicial branch and department
17 of public safety.



1 The purpose of this Act is to create a puuhonua commission
2 within the department of public safety, to provide formerly
3 incarcerated individuals a place to heal or become whole again
4 in a way that benefits society.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to part I, to be appropriately
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 "§353- Puuhonua commission; established. (a) There is
9 established within the department of public safety for
10 administrative purposes the puuhonua commission. The commission
11 shall work with post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and
12 parolees to assist these individuals in the transition post-
13 incarceration. The commission shall develop partnerships with
14 businesses, nonprofit organizations, churches, unions,
15 government agencies, schools, and other entities and
16 organizations that focus on assisting post-incarcerated persons,
17 parolees, and probationers. The commission shall develop a
18 network of support and assistance to address housing,
19 healthcare, vocational training, skill building, drug treatment,
20 job searches, counseling, mentorship, mental health issues, and



1 other needs of post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and
2 probationers, as necessary.

3 (b) The commission shall meet at least once each quarter
4 to: review data and information from the commission's network of
5 support; review data provided by government agencies and
6 partners; interact with those who are in need of or who are
7 utilizing the commission's services; and address other issues as
8 needed.

9 (c) The commission may make recommendations to the
10 governor, legislature, county mayors, and county councils on
11 matters relevant to the commission's work.

12 (d) The commission shall consist of nine members to be
13 appointed as follows:

14 (1) Three members shall be appointed by the governor
15 pursuant to section 26-34; provided that at least one
16 member shall be a former inmate;

17 (2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a
18 list of nominees submitted by the president of the
19 senate;



1 (3) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a
2 list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house
3 of representatives; and

4 (4) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a
5 list of nominees submitted by the office of Hawaiian
6 affairs.

7 (e) The terms of the members shall be four years, and no
8 person shall be appointed consecutively to more than two terms,
9 in accordance with section 26-34.

10 (f) There is to be established in each of the counties of
11 the State a puuhonua commission advisory committee. Each
12 committee shall consist of three members to be appointed as
13 follows: one member shall be appointed by the governor pursuant
14 to section 26-34; and two members shall be appointed by the
15 governor from a list of nominees submitted by the mayor of the
16 appropriate county. Each committee shall meet at least once
17 each quarter. Each committee shall inform the puuhonua
18 commission of the needs of probationers, parolees, and post-
19 incarcerated persons within the county.

20 (g) Members of the commission and the advisory committees
21 shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed from the



special fund for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in
the performance of their duties, including travel expenses,
pending availability of funds.

(h) There is established in the state treasury the
puuhonua commission special fund, into which shall be deposited:

(1) Appropriations from the legislature; and

(2) All revenues from grants or donations made to the
commission.

Moneys in the puuhonua commission special fund shall be
used to support the puuhonua commission and puuhonua commission
advisory committees."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

Will Eyo
[Signature]
Lorraine R. Fong
[Signature]



S.B. NO. 2629

Report Title:

Puuhonua Commission; Post-incarcerated Persons; Reintegration;
Special Fund

Description:

Establishes the puuhonua commission within the department of public safety to help post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees reintegrate into society. Creates county advisory committees to advise the commission. Establishes a special fund.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

