

MAR 10 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND
EXPAND ITS COMMUNITY-BASED WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST
FORMERLY INCARCERATED FEMALE INMATES TRANSITION BACK INTO
SOCIETY.

1 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs that assist
2 formerly incarcerated persons transition back into society
3 reduce incarceration costs and address problems associated with
4 reentry and the high rate of recidivism; and
5

6 WHEREAS, recent data from the Justice Reinvestment
7 Initiative indicate that incarceration is not an effective
8 method for rehabilitating persons with substance abuse
9 addictions, and that community-based substance abuse treatment
10 programs are more effective than in-prison treatment; and
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12 WHEREAS, a majority of female offenders in the State commit
13 nonviolent crimes and do not pose a threat to the community; and
14

15 WHEREAS, many female offenders return to incarceration if
16 their recovery is not supported during their transition, and
17 community-based work furlough programs that integrate trauma-
18 informed care help nonviolent female offenders break the cycle
19 of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration; and
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21 WHEREAS, the majority of incarcerated female offenders are
22 mothers of minor children, and fragmented families often lead to
23 integration problems, as evidenced by mothers and daughters
24 being incarcerated together at the Women's Community
25 Correctional Center; and
26

27 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs create an
28 integrated and seamless resocialization and reentry process to
29 help formerly incarcerated females adjust to greater
30 independence as they transition and reunite with their children
31 and families; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women have a disproportionate
3 representation in the State's criminal justice system, making up
4 over forty-four per cent of the incarcerated female population
5 and having higher incarceration rates than Native Hawaiian men;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, a 2012 Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report
9 found that placement of Native Hawaiians in community-based,
10 cultural and trauma-informed reentry programs are effective in
11 reducing recidivism; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine, an Oahu-based
14 program, is the only community-based work furlough program in
15 the State and has experience in successfully transitioning
16 formerly incarcerated female offenders through placement in a
17 community-based work furlough program that emphasizes a gender-
18 responsive, culturally-sensitive, and trauma-informed framework;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, 82.4 per cent of women offenders who participate
22 in this program are not reincarcerated for at least two years
23 after being released, and Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine can
24 serve as a successful reentry model for future community-based
25 work furlough programs; and
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27 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs not only
28 empower women to successfully transition from prison to the
29 community, but also contribute to safer communities; and
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31 WHEREAS, as of November 3, 2014, there were six hundred
32 sixty-five women under the care and custody of the Department of
33 Public Safety; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety reported that the
36 cost of incarceration is \$134 per day for each inmate; and
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38 WHEREAS, reducing recidivism and subsequent incarceration
39 will not only provide long-term cost savings to the Department
40 of Public Safety, but will also contribute to creating safer
41 communities; now, therefore,
42



S.R. NO. 55

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
3 that the Department of Public Safety is encouraged to continue
4 and expand its structured, community-based work furlough
5 programs to assist formerly incarcerated female inmates
6 transition back into society; and

7
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of
10 Public Safety, and the Auditor.

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13 OFFERED BY:

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