
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF OPENING
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURTS IN PUNA AND KAU.

1 WHEREAS, the State's first Community Outreach Court has
2 been open in Honolulu for one year as of January 2018; and
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4 WHEREAS, the purpose of Community Outreach Court is to
5 offer combined accountability and treatment options to offenders
6 who may have difficulty resolving cases in a traditional court
7 setting or paying fines imposed; and
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9 WHEREAS, the sentences imposed often utilize alternatives
10 to incarceration or fines, such as community service and
11 mandatory participation in programs deemed appropriate for
12 individual offenders based on their need for specific mental
13 health services, substance abuse treatment, sustenance, and
14 shelter; and
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16 WHEREAS, in its first year of operation, the Honolulu
17 Community Outreach Court has assisted fifty-seven homeless
18 defendants, resolved six hundred one cases involving low-level,
19 nonviolent offenses, imposed nearly six hundred eighty community
20 service hours in lieu of fines or jail, secured housing for nine
21 defendants, helped eleven defendants obtain employment, and
22 facilitated entry into a substance abuse treatment program for
23 five defendants; and
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25 WHEREAS, residents of the island of Hawaii are sometimes
26 cited or arrested for similar low-level and nonviolent offenses;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, valuable time and resources are currently being
30 expended to bring these individuals to court; and
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H.C.R. NO. 81

1 WHEREAS, for Puna residents, going to court means making a
 2 two-hour trip to the Hilo courthouse because the courthouse that
 3 previously served Puna closed on August 1, 2009, and the Kau
 4 District Court moved its hearings to Kona District Court in
 5 October 2010; now, therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 9 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is requested
 10 to study the feasibility of opening Community Outreach Courts in
 11 Puna and Kau; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
 14 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
 15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 16 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
 20 Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

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 23 OFFERED BY:

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