
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ALLOW FAITH PODS
BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH
CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians are severely overrepresented in
2 the State's prison population and have a much higher recidivism
3 rate than non-Hawaiians; and
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5 WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua is defined as "a place of refuge,
6 sanctuary, asylum, place of peace and safety" and is based on
7 Hawaiian cultural practices that can help the native Hawaiian
8 community and the community at-large; and
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10 WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua is a decentralized wellness center that
11 can act as an alternative to building more prisons in the State
12 and is based on healing inhabitants and eventually returning
13 them back to the community; and
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15 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence of Hawaiian cultural
16 practices and an increased focus on the importance of
17 maintaining Hawaiian cultural practices; and
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19 WHEREAS, non-violence has always been key to Hawaiians, as
20 represented in the Hawaiian cultural practice of kapu aloha; and
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22 WHEREAS, incarcerated individuals, or pa'ahao, have
23 initiated Hawaiian cultural programs within different
24 correctional systems known as "faith pods" throughout the nation
25 to help promote safe spaces to heal and regain their identity as
26 Hawaiians; and
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28 WHEREAS, Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, sought to
29 "[r]educ[e] recidivism, prevent crime, and ensure long-term
30 positive change by developing a plan to create a wellness center
31 that reestablishes highly recognized native Hawaiian cultural
32 practices to restore the overall well-being of persons,
33 families, and the native Hawaiian community"; and
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1 WHEREAS, there have been many attempts to improve the
2 correctional system in the State but none has provided Hawaiians
3 with the opportunity to practice native Hawaiian cultural
4 practices; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2021, that the Department of Public Safety is requested to
9 allow "faith pods" based upon kapu aloha to be established
10 within each correctional center in the State to allow
11 incarcerated individuals a choice to reestablish recognized
12 native Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the overall well-
13 being of the Hawaiian community; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety and
17 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs board of trustees.
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OFFERED BY: _____

T. Talani

FEB 17 2021

