

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO INCREASE ITS
INVESTMENT IN COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER REENTRY TRAINING
PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS EXITING CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, individuals with histories of arrests and criminal
2 convictions are routinely blocked from employment, housing, and
3 educational opportunities due to state and local restrictions,
4 as well as social stigma; and
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6 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau
7 of Justice Statistics, ninety-five percent of people
8 incarcerated in state prisons will eventually be released back
9 into the community; and
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11 WHEREAS, reentry programs focused on helping persons
12 exiting jails and prisons obtain post-secondary education,
13 housing, employment, and treatment foster a smoother and more
14 successful transition from incarceration back into their
15 communities, resulting in reduced recidivism and improved public
16 safety; and
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18 WHEREAS, the coronavirus 2019 pandemic and the continuing
19 economic fallout have exacerbated existing barriers to
20 successful prisoner reintegration due, in part, to high
21 unemployment and increased demand for housing assistance; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is statutorily
24 required to provide comprehensive and effective reentry planning
25 for adults exiting correctional facilities; and
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27 WHEREAS, not having civil identification documents makes it
28 nearly impossible to obtain housing and legal employment, both
29 of which are foundational pieces to successful reentry into
30 communities; and
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32 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Public Safety's
33 statutory mandate to provide civil identification documents to
34 persons exiting correctional facilities, pursuant to section



S.R. NO. 85

1 353H-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, roughly half are exiting jails
2 and prisons without such documentation; and
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4 WHEREAS, persons exiting correctional facilities without
5 proper identification will have fewer legal means to support
6 themselves and will require additional state support and
7 resources; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
11 that the Department of Public Safety is urged to increase
12 investment in comprehensive offender reentry programs for
13 individuals exiting correctional facilities; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
16 is encouraged to, at the very least, maintain its existing
17 reentry services and its funding for those contracts during the
18 current economic crisis; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
21 is encouraged to identify meaningful opportunities to divest
22 from its retributive approach to corrections and to reinvest in
23 reentry support programs; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
26 is urged to actively seek information regarding existing
27 barriers to successful offender reentry and is encouraged to
28 work with community stakeholders to develop, support, and
29 implement policy changes that dismantle these barriers; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
32 is requested to fully comply with its statutory obligation to
33 provide exiting offenders with civil identification documents,
34 and to expeditiously identify and correct issues that result in
35 noncompliance; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety.
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OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Michener

