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## HOUSE 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



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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 House of Representatives of the  
10 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2021, that the Department of Public Safety is urged to  
12 increase investment in comprehensive offender reentry programs  
13 for 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  
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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  
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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:



MAR 12 2021

