
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE JUDICIARY TO ASSIGN ONE JUDGE FOR THE HOPE PROBATION
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, in 2004, retired First Circuit Judge Steven Alm
2 launched the nation's first high-intensity supervision pilot
3 program, HOPE Probation (Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with
4 Enforcement), to reduce probation violations by drug offenders
5 and others at high risk of recidivism; and
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7 WHEREAS, probationers in HOPE Probation are supposed to
8 receive swift, predictable, and immediate sanctions - typically
9 resulting in several days in jail - for each detected violation,
10 such as detected drug use or missed appointments with a
11 probation officer; and
12

13 WHEREAS, effective implementation of the HOPE Probation
14 strategy produces short-term and long-term positive outcomes for
15 high-risk probationers as well as state and local communities;
16 and
17

18 WHEREAS, according to a 2007 evaluation, HOPE Probation
19 offenders at their one-year follow up were seventy-two percent
20 less likely to test positive for illegal drugs, sixty-one
21 percent less likely to skip appointments with their supervisory
22 officer, fifty-five percent less likely to be arrested for a new
23 crime, and fifty-three percent less likely to have their
24 probation revoked when compared to offenders on standard
25 probation; and
26

27 WHEREAS, long-term positive outcomes for probationers
28 include prison avoidance, reduced probationary periods,
29 sustained abstinence from alcohol and drugs, improved health,
30 reduced criminal recidivism, greater employment and income, and
31 ultimately an improved quality of life; and



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2 WHEREAS, for state and local communities, these outcomes
3 result in reduced crime, fewer costly imprisonments, reduced
4 costs to the criminal justice system, an increase in the number
5 of working individuals who pay taxes, and the repayment of
6 court-ordered restitution for victims; and
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8 WHEREAS, several judges are currently assigned to HOPE
9 Probation cases, which is inundating the judges' calendars and
10 leading to widespread and inconsistent decisions; and
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12 WHEREAS, to improve consistency and ease logistics, all
13 HOPE Probation cases should be consolidated to one judge; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is urged to
19 assign one judge for the HOPE Probation Program to ensure
20 expedited and timely cases are heard and decided and to ensure
21 consistency in judicial hearings and decisions; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
25 Hawaii State Supreme Court.
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OFFERED BY:



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