
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE JUDICIARY TO PARTNER WITH SUPPORTING AGENCIES AND
REQUEST GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT TO
ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM IN EACH
COUNTY TO ALLOW VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
PARTICIPATE IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.

1 WHEREAS, studies show that restorative justice programs
2 reduce crime, reduce repeat offenses, divert individuals from
3 the criminal justice system, reduce the costs of criminal
4 justice, increase crime victims' healing and well-being, reduce
5 the backlog of court cases, and provide victims and offenders
6 with greater satisfaction than traditional criminal justice
7 often allows; and

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9 WHEREAS, the restorative justice process is a powerful
10 healing tool that brings offenders, victims, and their
11 respective personal supporters together in a carefully managed
12 and safe environment; and

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14 WHEREAS, the restorative justice paradigm focuses on
15 victims and the harms done to them, the obligations those harms
16 create for offenders and the community, and how to make things
17 right as much as possible; and

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19 WHEREAS, restorative justice may occur at any level of the
20 criminal justice process, including when police first encounter
21 a crime, during the screening process, before a hearing is
22 scheduled, before sentencing, or following conviction, and if
23 successful, restorative justice can lead to the transformation
24 of people, relationships, and communities; and

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26 WHEREAS, restorative justice builds a sense of empathy
27 among the parties involved and can lead to creative, sustainable



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1 resolutions beyond the scope of a more traditional court system;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, for restorative justice to take place, the
5 offender must admit to the crime, and both the victim and
6 offender must be willing to participate; and

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8 WHEREAS, an impartial, trained, and experienced facilitator
9 meets with the parties to discuss the program's goals and plans
10 a restorative justice process; and

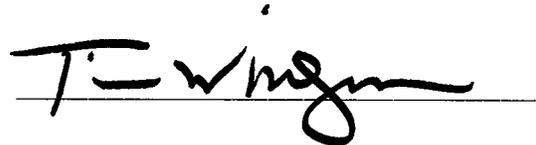
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12 WHEREAS, after adequate preparation, the facilitator and
13 parties meet and the resulting agreements may resolve the case;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, pilot projects in the State, such as Pono Kaulike
17 on Oahu and the Restorative Justice Program of the Department of
18 the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, have been
19 offered with positive results, leading to restorative justice
20 pilot projects being highlighted by the Federal Probation
21 Journal, Honolulu Magazine, and KITV News; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is urged to
26 partner with supporting agencies and request grant funds under
27 the Victims of Crime Act to establish and support a restorative
28 justice program in each county to allow victims and offenders an
29 opportunity to participate in restorative justice; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
33 Supreme Court of Hawaii and the prosecutor of each county.

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36 OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2022

