
HOUSE RESOLUTION

EVALUATING THE FREQUENCY OF UNTOWARD CRIMINAL EVENTS IN
PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS AND THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF AN
INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM IN PRESERVING PUBLIC SAFETY.

1 WHEREAS, on February 15th, 2022, a previously incarcerated
2 criminally insane person was released from the city prosecutor's
3 office after assaulting a police officer and upon release
4 proceeded to beat a woman to death with a tree limb on the steps
5 of the Kapolei Police Station; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Hawaii Article IX
8 §6 provides "The State and its political subdivisions . . .
9 shall plan and manage the growth of the population to protect
10 and preserve the public health and welfare"; and

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12 WHEREAS, over two centuries later, King Kamehameha the
13 Great's "Ke Kānāwai Māmalahoe" or "Law of the Splintered Paddle"
14 remains a precept in the State Constitution symbolizing servant
15 leadership and elevating the importance of caring for and
16 serving one's people; and

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18 WHEREAS, on February 18th, 2022, Michael Armstrong was
19 charged with the second-degree murder of Linda Johnson, and the
20 attack took place just after he was released by officers at the
21 Kapolei Police Station that Monday night; and

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23 WHEREAS, victim Linda Johnson had also been released from
24 custody for sleeping at the closed Kuhio Beach Park in Waikiki,
25 and "might have stayed near the police station thinking it was
26 safe" but was beaten to death by a man whose violence had
27 already been reported to the station; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Prosecuting Attorney of Honolulu Steve Alm reasons
30 his hindrance from charging Armstrong with a misdemeanor is
31 "because [Armstrong] would have gone to court the next day and



1 likely pled guilty, which would have foreclosed us from later
2 charging him with felony assault of the [police] officer"; and
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4 WHEREAS, following his acquittal in 2007, Michael Armstrong
5 has been on conditional release from the state hospital for 15
6 years as a ward of the state, transferring back-and-forth from
7 community group homes and the Hawaii State Hospital per his
8 diagnosis of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Hospital, an agency of the State
11 of Hawaii Department of Health, within the Adult Mental Health
12 Division, is the only public psychiatric hospital in Hawaii and
13 is typically utilized for court-ordered evaluations; and
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15 WHEREAS, Michael's father Tony Armstrong quotes "This
16 wouldn't have happened if [Michael] wasn't released . . . Linda
17 Johnson would still have her life and my son would not be a
18 murderer"; and
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20 WHEREAS, research efforts should be allocated towards
21 characterizing the relationship between psychiatric illness and
22 criminality and substantiating the critical role of an
23 interprofessional team in caring for afflicted patients and
24 ensuring public safety; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2022, that the Hawaii State House of Representatives urges
29 the Honolulu Chief of Police, the Honolulu City and County
30 Prosecutor, the Hawaii Attorney General, and the United States
31 Attorney to conduct a thorough investigation of the brutal
32 murder in front of the Kapolei Police Station; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Chief of Police,
35 the Honolulu City and County Prosecutor, the Hawaii Attorney
36 General, and the United States attorney shall research the
37 impact of releasing prisoners with a long list of prior
38 conflicts to prevent similar tragedies in the future; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned group is
41 requested to submit a report of its findings and

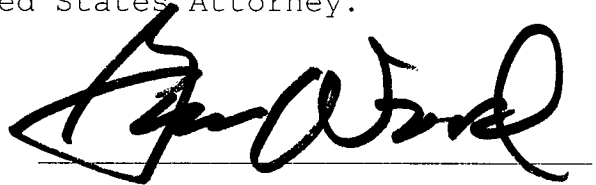


H.R. NO. 113

1 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
2 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
3 the Regular session of 2023; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the
7 President of the Senate, the Governor of the State of Hawaii,
8 the Department of Public Safety, the Honolulu Chief of Police,
9 the Honolulu City and County Prosecutor, the Attorney General of
10 the State of Hawaii, and the United States Attorney.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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