

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes the importance of  
2 community-based work furlough programs for women transitioning  
3 back into the community. Since 2015, the department of public  
4 safety has contracted with a local nonprofit organization to  
5 place women from the women's community correctional center on  
6 Oahu in a residential program that provides wraparound services  
7 to assist the women as they reenter society and rebuild their  
8 lives. The residential program's job readiness and job  
9 retention programs enable women to return to the workforce,  
10 keeping eighty-four per cent of participants out of prison and  
11 providing them the opportunity to participate in and access  
12 transitional training.

13           The legislature finds that the community-based work  
14 furlough program is gender responsive and equipped to meet the  
15 needs of women who have sustained some form of trauma. The  
16 great majority of women who have been served by the program are  
17 mothers. The program also eases family reunification efforts,



1 which helps to keep children from intergenerational  
2 incarceration.

3 The legislature further finds that the department of public  
4 safety has affirmed the importance of community-based work  
5 furlough programs for women, testifying in 2020 in support of a  
6 measure to allocate funding for that purpose by recognizing "the  
7 undisputed importance of community-based reentry programs,  
8 particularly for women".

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Mandate that there be a community-based work furlough  
11 program for all incarcerated women in the State; and  
12 (2) Appropriate funds to the department of public safety  
13 to extend the contract for community-based work  
14 furlough for women and ensure that it is not only  
15 continued but expanded to all incarcerated women.

16 SECTION 2. Section 353-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "[+]§353-6.5[+] **Gender-responsive, community-based**  
19 **programs for female offenders.** [~~Subject to funding by the~~  
20 ~~legislature, the~~] The department of public safety shall develop  
21 and make available gender-responsive, community-based programs,



1 including a community-based work furlough program, for all  
2 female offenders by providing female offenders the appropriate  
3 range of opportunities to ensure that their needs are met.

4 Program models designed to address female offender needs shall  
5 include but are not limited to:

- 6 (1) Appropriate treatment, including substance abuse and  
7 mental health treatment;
- 8 (2) Individualized case management to help female  
9 offenders set and achieve goals;
- 10 (3) Life skills development workshops, including  
11 budgeting, money management, nutrition, and exercise;
- 12 (4) Development of self-determination through education;  
13 employment training; community-based work furlough  
14 programs; special education for the learning disabled;  
15 and social, cognitive, communication, and life skills  
16 training;
- 17 (5) Family-focused programming, including issues relating  
18 to pregnancy and single parenthood;
- 19 (6) Peer support and the development of peer networks;



- 1           (7) Transitional support for female offenders and their
- 2                   families to promote successful reentry into their
- 3                   families and communities;
- 4           (8) Highly skilled staff experienced in working with
- 5                   female offenders and their concerns;
- 6           (9) Formal recognition of participant achievement;
- 7           (10) Ongoing attention to building community-based support;
- 8           (11) Assistance for female offenders who need to develop a
- 9                   marketable job skill and a career plan;
- 10          (12) Geographical proximity to children and family; and
- 11          (13) The goal of providing a gender-responsive continuum of
- 12                   care."

13           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to  
16 ensure the continuation of community-based work furlough for  
17 women and its expansion to all incarcerated women.

18           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
19 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

20           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY: Rosely H. Bata



# S.B. NO. 2637

**Report Title:**

Community-based Work Furlough; Women; Appropriation

**Description:**

Mandates that there be a community-based work furlough program for all incarcerated women in the State. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

