

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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

8  
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

13  
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

18  
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

25  
26 WHEREAS, restorative justice builds a sense of empathy  
27 among the parties involved and can lead to creative, sustainable



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

3  
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

7  
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

11  
12 WHEREAS, after adequate preparation, the facilitator and  
13 parties meet and the resulting agreements may resolve the case;  
14 and

15  
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,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Judiciary is urged  
26 to partner with supporting agencies and request grant funds  
27 under the Victims of Crime Act to establish and support a  
28 restorative justice program in each county to allow victims and  
29 offenders an opportunity to participate in restorative justice;  
30 and

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

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36  
37 OFFERED BY: 

