
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO COLLABORATE IN IDENTIFYING PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE REHABILITATION AND MINIMIZE RECIDIVISM FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

1 WHEREAS, children of Micronesian or Native Hawaiian
2 ancestry and other Pacific Island youth are overrepresented in
3 the State's juvenile justice system; and
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5 WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2022, such youth accounted for
6 forty-eight percent of all youth who were arrested; forty-nine
7 percent of all youth who were referred to family court; fifty
8 percent of all petitions filed in family court; and sixty-three
9 percent of all youth who were placed in a detention facility in
10 the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, intergenerational trauma, cultural disconnection,
13 homelessness, and other factors can drive and contribute to a
14 high disparity in such juvenile offenders; and
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16 WHEREAS, studies have shown that youth who are connected to
17 their culture and community are more successful and less likely
18 to become involved in the juvenile justice system; and
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20 WHEREAS, partnerships with community organizations may be
21 an appropriate practice for the family court to be more
22 culturally responsive to maximize rehabilitation and reduce
23 recidivism; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2023, that the Office of Youth Services and Family
28 Court of the First Judicial Circuit are urged to collaborate in
29 identifying processes, procedures, and strategies for partnering



1 with community organizations to maximize rehabilitation and
2 minimize recidivism for juvenile offenders; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Youth Services
5 and Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit are urged to
6 consider best practices and lessons from other nations and
7 United States jurisdictions that have successful programs; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Youth Services
10 and Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit are requested to
11 jointly submit a report of their findings and recommendations,
12 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
14 of 2024; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
18 Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services, Chief
19 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and Senior Family Court
20 Judge of the First Judicial Circuit of the Judiciary.

