

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO WORK IN COLLABORATION TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF SPECIAL NEEDS INMATES AND OTHERS IN THE STATE'S JAILS AND PRISONS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is statutorily
2 required to provide mental health services to inmates in
3 community correctional centers; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is also
6 statutorily required to develop and make available gender-
7 responsive, community-based programs for women offenders by
8 providing them with the appropriate range of opportunities to
9 ensure that their needs are met, including programs designed to
10 provide substance abuse and mental health treatments, as
11 appropriate; and

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13 WHEREAS, to preserve the health and safety of inmates and
14 others, the Department of Public Safety has adopted a
15 corrections administration policy that establishes communication
16 guidelines between the facility administrator and treating
17 clinicians or their designees regarding significant medical and
18 mental health needs of inmates prior to transfers or
19 programming; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is transitioning
22 into a rehabilitative and therapeutic model of corrections
23 administration, and therefore, there is a need to revise the
24 training programs for its line correctional officers with
25 increased focus on the administration of inmates who are
26 contending with a myriad of mental health and behavioral issues;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has expertise in
30 identifying and addressing mental health and behavioral issues,
31 including provision of mental health education, treatment, and
32 rehabilitation services; and



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WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Department of Public Safety can work together to address various issues relating to inmates in the State's jails and prisons with medical or mental health disabilities or disorders that interfere with the ability to carry out normal activities (identified as "special needs inmates" by the Department of Public Safety); and

WHEREAS, the line staff of the Department of Public Safety would benefit greatly from receiving training from the Department of Health on the subject of mental health and behavioral issues; and

WHEREAS, a collaboration between the Department of Health and Department of Public Safety to preserve the health and safety of special needs inmates and others in the State's jails and prisons would benefit both departments as well as the larger community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Department of Health and Department of Public Safety, and as of January 1, 2024, its successor, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, are requested to work in collaboration to preserve the health and safety of special needs inmates and others in the State's jails and prisons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Corrections System Oversight Commission is requested to provide oversight of the collaboration between the departments to ensure the well-being of special needs inmates and that their significant medical and mental health needs are being adequately addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Director of Public Safety, and Oversight Coordinator of the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.

OFFERED BY: 

