

MAR 04 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO
COMPREHENSIVELY REEVALUATE ITS POLICIES REGARDING IN-PERSON
CONTACT VISITATION AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT
THE STATE TO BEST SUPPORT INCARCERATED PERSONS IN STAYING
CONNECTED WITH LOVED ONES WHO CAN HELP THEM ON THEIR
JOURNEY OF REHABILITATION.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
2 has a duty to rehabilitate individuals in its custody in
3 addition to incarcerating them; and
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5 WHEREAS, in-person, contact visitation with family members
6 and loved ones is a rehabilitative practice proven to reduce
7 recidivism for incarcerated persons; and
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9 WHEREAS, the significance of appropriate, regulated
10 physical contact between incarcerated persons and their loved
11 ones to the goal of rehabilitation, opportunities for healing,
12 and maintaining a relationship with loved ones, particularly for
13 minor children visiting their incarcerated parents, is immense;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, some correctional facilities in the State,
17 however, require in-person visitors to be physically separated
18 from their incarcerated loved one by a barrier such as a pane of
19 glass; and
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21 WHEREAS, the policies of prohibiting contact visits at
22 facilities such as Halawa Correctional Facility, Maui Community
23 Correctional Center, and Oahu Community Correctional Center have
24 been instituted to address the issue of contraband illegally
25 entering and leaving the facilities; and
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27 WHEREAS, research supports that bans on traditional in-
28 person visitation does not stop the flow of contraband; and
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1 WHEREAS, the implementation or reimplementation of contact
2 visits in facilities that currently ban them requires
3 identifying the best practices for modernizing the approach to
4 deterring contraband while recognizing the importance of contact
5 visits to the overall well-being of incarcerated persons and
6 their ability to successfully reintegrate into society; now,
7 therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
12 Corrections and Rehabilitation is requested to comprehensively
13 reevaluate its policies regarding in-person contact visitation
14 at correctional facilities throughout the State to best support
15 incarcerated persons in staying connected with loved ones who
16 can help them on their journey of rehabilitation; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Corrections
19 and Rehabilitation is urged to identify alternative policies
20 that would allow for in-person, contact visitation at all
21 correctional facilities throughout the State; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
25 Corrections and Rehabilitation and Chairperson and Oversight
26 Coordinator of the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
27 Commission.

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30 OFFERED BY: 

