

ACT 193

H.B. NO. 1818

A Bill for an Act Relating to Cognitive Restructuring.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a disproportionately high rate of arrest and incarceration among young men and women of Hawaiian ancestry. Many of these individuals are under forty years of age and should be provided rehabilitation opportunities.

A promising approach to reducing recidivism and helping inmates make the successful transition from prison to the community is cognitive restructuring and transition programs provided at correctional facilities. Such programs involve self-examination of an inmate's belief system, criminal addictive cycle, attitudes and thinking patterns, and development of relapse prevention plans for future situations. The programs assist offenders in restructuring their thought processes and teach cognitive skills that help with basic decision-making and problem-solving. The goal of cognitive restructuring is to guide offenders to consciously examine their own thoughts by engaging in processes that develop self-control, thus making them responsible for, and in charge of, their actions no matter how stressful the situation. When combined with strategies that help Hawaiian inmates get back in touch with the values of their culture, cognitive rehabilitation can help break the vicious cycle of crime and punishment, as knowledge of Hawaiian traditions and cultural values have helped many cope with social challenges.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of public safety to offer reentry/reintegration programs within Hawaii's correctional facilities that include cognitive behavioral therapy with cultural and other interventions to address domestic violence, addictions, self-mastery through identity, and com-

munity connections to promote the successful transition from incarceration to the community.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of public safety may offer reentry/reintegration programs within Hawaii's correctional facilities that offer cognitive behavioral therapy with cultural and other interventions to address domestic violence, addictions, self-mastery through identity, and community connections to promote the successful transition from incarceration to the community.

(b) The department of public safety may implement this Act with all new contracts for reentry/reintegration programs upon approval of this Act.

(c) The department of public safety shall submit an annual report to the legislature on these programs in Hawaii's correctional facilities no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning with the regular session of 2011.

The annual report shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) Descriptions of the various programs;
- (2) Criteria for access/entry to the programs;
- (3) The number of native Hawaiians who participated in the programs;
- (4) The number of non-Hawaiians who participated in the programs;
- (5) The number of native Hawaiians who completed the programs;
- (6) The number of non-Hawaiians who completed the programs;
- (7) The number of participants paroled/"maxed out";
- (8) Recidivism after three months, six months, nine months, and one year; and
- (9) Successes and challenges in administering the programs.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the Act, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Became law on July 6, 2010, without the governor's signature, pursuant to Art. III, §16, State Constitution.)