

A Bill for an Act Relating to Incarceration.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that once released from jails and prisons, individuals having arrest and conviction records face many barriers to success, including housing restrictions, workplace restrictions, and informal restrictions. Further, the problems associated with reentry and the high rate of recidivism among the formerly incarcerated population necessitate programs to divert individuals from pretrial detention and effectively assist the transition of formerly incarcerated individuals from jails and prisons to the community. As noted in the December 2018 “Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawaii Legislature”, “[e]ffective programs are essential for a successful rehabilitative system.”

The legislature further finds that an individual’s stay in a jail or prison costs the public between \$200 and \$400 per day, depending on the level of security measures required. These costs may be dramatically reduced through the implementation of reentry and reintegration programs.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to reduce recidivism rates in the State and increase productivity in affected communities by appropriating funds for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs within the State.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the purchase of identification card machines to assist offenders while they are in the department of public safety’s custody and control in obtaining identifying documentation that is essential to their reentry upon release.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of public safety for the purpose of this section.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the development and maintenance of community housing for parolees to support their reentry into the community and their rehabilitation.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii paroling authority for the purpose of this section.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a forensic peer specialist program to assess and treat incarcerated individuals with behavioral, mental, and substance abuse issues.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purpose of this section.

SECTION 5. The department of public safety, Hawaii paroling authority, and department of health shall each submit to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024, a report of its respective findings and recommendations. Each report shall include the following information:

- (1) The manner in which funds received pursuant to this Act have been expended;

- (2) The particular service providers involved;
- (3) The number of persons who have been served;
- (4) A description of the services provided;
- (5) Measurable outcomes; and
- (6) Any proposed legislation.

SECTION 6. The appropriations made pursuant to sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriations are made; provided that all moneys from the appropriations unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

(Approved June 27, 2022.)