

JAN 21 2011

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Research has demonstrated that women follow  
2 different pathways to prison, which often involve unresolved  
3 traumatic experiences that have led to substance abuse in these  
4 women's attempts to self-medicate. There is a vast body of  
5 research that also shows that incarceration is not an effective  
6 method to deal with the addiction faced by women being held for  
7 illegal drug use. The root problems that led to such  
8 destructive behavior must be addressed to successfully break the  
9 cycle of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration. However,  
10 currently, there is a lack of adequate programs that can help  
11 incarcerated women face these challenges and assist them in  
12 successfully transitioning back into the community.  
13 Unfortunately, the great majority of incarcerated women will be  
14 released into the community without the necessary skills and  
15 tools for a successful transition.

16           In recent years, the number of incarcerated women has  
17 increased at an alarming rate. The department of public safety



1 hired Criminal Justice Institute, Inc., to conduct a  
2 reclassification of all Hawaii inmates. The resulting report:  
3 "Classification - systemic approach to sound correctional  
4 management," was provided to the legislature in January 2008,  
5 noting that eighty-four per cent of incarcerated women are  
6 classified as nonviolent. The report projected that women  
7 inmates who are eligible for community reintegration services  
8 included:

- 9 (1) 55.2 per cent of female jail inmates;
- 10 (2) 47.8 per cent of female prison inmates held in-state;
- 11 and
- 12 (3) 22.2 per cent of female prison inmates held out of  
13 state.

14 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
15 public safety to determine the number of women who are eligible  
16 for reintegration into the community and contract with providers  
17 of gender-responsive community services to assist women in  
18 successfully transitioning back into the community.

19 SECTION 2. The department of public safety shall determine  
20 the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the  
21 community and contract with providers of gender-responsive

1 community services for an array of services to assist women in  
2 successfully transitioning back into the community, including:

- 3 (1) Family reunification;
- 4 (2) Employment;
- 5 (3) Education opportunities; and
- 6 (4) Housing.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 to  
10 determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration  
11 into the community and contract with providers of gender-  
12 responsive community services for an array of services to assist  
13 women in successfully transitioning back into the community.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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**Report Title:**

Community-based Reintegration Program

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Public Safety to determine the number of women who are eligible for reintegration into the community and contract with providers of gender-responsive community services to assist women in successfully transitioning back into the community.

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