
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO REPORT ON STRATEGIES
AND RESOURCES TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

1 WHEREAS, there is a concern for the health and welfare of
2 Native Hawaiian inmates in prisons in Hawaii and the continental
3 United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, due to a number of historic and socioeconomic
6 factors, Native Hawaiians make up a disproportionately high
7 percentage of the inmate population in the state prison system,
8 accounting for twenty-four percent of the overall state
9 population but thirty-nine percent of the incarcerated
10 population; and
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12 WHEREAS, in response to those concerns, the Office of
13 Hawaiian Affairs, in collaboration with public and private
14 entities, published a report entitled "The Disparate Treatment
15 of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System" in September
16 2010; and
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18 WHEREAS, this report found that, when controlled for all
19 factors except ethnicity, Native Hawaiians face disparate
20 treatment in the Hawaii criminal justice system in many areas,
21 including but not limited to longer prison sentences,
22 probations, and a higher percentage of parole revocations; and
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24 WHEREAS, as detailed in the report, two of the key factors
25 that contribute to recidivism are a lack of standard and
26 culturally-based programs in prison to adequately prepare an
27 inmate for reentry into society; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Hawaiian
32 Affairs is requested to convene a task force for the purpose of



1 producing a comprehensive report on strategies and resources
2 needed to reduce recidivism among Native Hawaiians; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
5 submit its report to the Governor and the Legislature no later
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
7 of 2012; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
11 of Public Safety, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chief Justice
12 of the Hawaii Supreme Court.
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