
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ADDRESS THE HIGH
COST OF INCARCERATION WITHOUT REHABILITATION BY
ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN LIEU OF
INCARCERATION FOR CERTAIN CONVICTED INDIVIDUALS.

1 WHEREAS, the State's incarceration of certain convicted
2 individuals is a costly method of addressing the issue of crime
3 and punishment; and
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5 WHEREAS, the high cost of incarcerating inmates in Hawaii
6 and in private prisons on the mainland is an expense ultimately
7 paid by the taxpayers of the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, the cost of incarcerating an individual for a year
10 is more than twice the cost of one year of education for a
11 child; and
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13 WHEREAS, the approximate cost to incarcerate a convicted
14 individual is more than \$36,500 per year; and to educate a
15 student for a nine-month school year costs approximately
16 \$15,000; and
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18 WHEREAS, the corrections budget in Hawaii has grown from
19 \$128,000,000 in 2000 to \$225,000,000 in 2009; and
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21 WHEREAS, although the costs of incarceration are high,
22 there is little or no return on the money expended for the
23 inmate or the taxpayer; and
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25 WHEREAS, an inmate's family often suffers economically and
26 otherwise while the inmate is incarcerated, particularly the
27 families of inmates who are incarcerated on the mainland; and
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29 WHEREAS, because there is little or no rehabilitation while
30 an inmate is incarcerated, there is little chance of successful



1 reintegration into the community upon the inmate's release from
2 prison; and

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4 WHEREAS, often the only skills learned in prison relate to
5 becoming a more successful criminal upon release, frequently
6 resulting in the individual's eventual return to prison and a
7 further burdening of the taxpayers of the State; and

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9 WHEREAS, changing the State's focus on incarceration to
10 rehabilitation and education creates a winning situation for the
11 convicted individual and the individual's family; and

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13 WHEREAS, the State should reduce its reliance on expensive
14 incarceration for certain convicted individuals and, instead,
15 develop programs that would rehabilitate convicted individuals
16 by teaching job skills and life skills that would lead to
17 employment and successful reintegration into the community upon
18 the individual's completion of the rehabilitation program; and

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20 WHEREAS, in lieu of incarceration, certain eligible
21 convicted individuals could take advantage of rehabilitation
22 programs that would teach business, agricultural, mechanical,
23 carpentry, and other skills; and

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25 WHEREAS, at its recent annual meeting, the Association of
26 Hawaiian Civic Clubs expressed support for the development of
27 rehabilitation programs for certain eligible convicted
28 individuals in lieu of costly and ineffective incarceration;
29 now, therefore

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Public
34 Safety is requested to take steps to address the issue of the
35 high cost of incarceration without rehabilitation by developing
36 rehabilitation programs, offered in lieu of incarceration, to
37 provide eligible convicted defendants with appropriate skills to
38 increase the individual's likelihood of successful re-entry into
39 the community after conviction; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Public Safety is
42 requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations
43 relating to the establishment and implementation of
44 rehabilitation programs in lieu of incarceration, including any



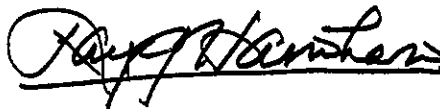
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1 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
2 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public
6 Safety, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme
7 Court, and the President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic
8 Clubs, who in turn is requested to transmit copies to the
9 presidents of its member Hawaiian civic clubs.

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OFFERED BY:



JAN 19 2012

