
HOUSE 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
31 reintegration into the community upon the inmate's release from
32 prison; and



1 WHEREAS, often the only skills learned in prison relate to
2 becoming a more successful criminal upon release, frequently
3 resulting in the individual's eventual return to prison and a
4 further burdening of the taxpayers of the State; and
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6 WHEREAS, changing the State's focus on incarceration to
7 rehabilitation and education creates a winning situation for the
8 convicted individual and the individual's family; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State should reduce its reliance on expensive
11 incarceration for certain convicted individuals and, instead,
12 develop programs that would rehabilitate convicted individuals
13 by teaching job skills and life skills that would lead to
14 employment and successful reintegration into the community upon
15 the individual's completion of the rehabilitation program; and
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17 WHEREAS, in lieu of incarceration, certain eligible
18 convicted individuals could take advantage of rehabilitation
19 programs that would teach business, agricultural, mechanical,
20 carpentry, and other skills; and
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22 WHEREAS, at its recent annual meeting, the Association of
23 Hawaiian Civic Clubs expressed support for the development of
24 rehabilitation programs for certain eligible convicted
25 individuals in lieu of costly and ineffective incarceration;
26 now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
30 of 2012, that the Department of Public Safety is requested to
31 take steps to address the issue of the high cost of
32 incarceration without rehabilitation by developing
33 rehabilitation programs, offered in lieu of incarceration, to
34 provide eligible convicted defendants with appropriate skills to
35 increase the individual's likelihood of successful re-entry into
36 the community after conviction; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Public Safety is
39 requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations
40 relating to the establishment and implementation of
41 rehabilitation programs in lieu of incarceration, including any
42 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
43 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the
3 Governor, the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and the
4 President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, who in
5 turn is requested to transmit copies to the presidents of the
6 other member Hawaiian civic clubs.

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OFFERED BY:



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