

JAN 25 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO REINVEST FUNDS
USED FOR INCARCERATION TO STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT
PROGRAMS FOR ELIGIBLE NON-VIOLENT FEMALE OFFENDERS.

1 WHEREAS, the problems associated with incarcerated persons
2 reentering society as well as the high rate of recidivism,
3 programs that effectively assist the transition of formerly
4 incarcerated persons into the community are critically needed;
5 and

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7 WHEREAS, once released from incarceration, the former
8 inmate faces many difficulties such as finding housing,
9 obtaining employment, and other obstacles resulting from
10 prejudices against formerly incarcerated persons; and

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12 WHEREAS, the costs of incarceration can be dramatically
13 reduced through the implementation of programs and services
14 designed to assist the transition into society for formerly
15 incarcerated persons; and

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17 WHEREAS, the federal Bureau of Prisons formerly facilitated
18 persons reentering the community through their system of
19 Residential Reentry Centers for persons who are not yet ready to
20 fully reintegrate into society; and

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22 WHEREAS, the federal Bureau of Prisons has found that
23 community placement programs are effective for non-violent
24 incarcerated persons who are reentering society from
25 incarceration, have demonstrated their fitness for community
26 placement, and have identified housing and employment; and

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28 WHEREAS, research indicates that a multitude of differing
29 issues are associated with female incarceration, often involving
30 unresolved sexual or physical trauma and substance abuse; and

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1 WHEREAS, in a majority of cases in the State, female
2 offenders commit crimes that are non-violent in nature and do
3 not pose a threat to the community; and

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5 WHEREAS, the recent data from the Justice Reinvestment
6 Initiative show that incarceration is not an effective method
7 for rehabilitating substance abuse addictions; and

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9 WHEREAS, community substance abuse treatment programs are
10 more effective than in-prison treatments, especially for non-
11 violent female offenders to break the cycle of substance abuse,
12 crime, and incarceration; and

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14 WHEREAS, many females return to incarceration if their drug
15 or alcohol dependencies are not treated and their recovery is
16 not supported during their transition; and

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18 WHEREAS, the risk of females becoming repeat offenders due
19 to substance abuse presents economic and social costs to the
20 public and the State's social service system; and

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22 WHEREAS, the majority of incarcerated female offenders are
23 mothers of minor children, causing issues that stem from
24 fragmented families and often become intergenerational problems;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, structured community placement helps females
28 adjust to greater independence as they transition and reunite
29 with their children, resulting in a more integrated and seamless
30 resocialization and reentry process; and

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32 WHEREAS, community placement that is monitored by a
33 structured program with available social services like T.J.
34 Mahoney's Ka Hale Hoala Hou No Na Wahine program, is an
35 effective way to monitor female offenders in the community while
36 transitioning them back into society; and

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38 WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration is \$137 per day for each
39 inmate, compared to a structured community placement program
40 that costs \$50 per day; and

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42 WHEREAS, eligible females who comply with the rules of the
43 monitored community placement program and have access to



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1 appropriate gender-responsive services are gradually offered
2 more independence; and
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4 WHEREAS, the savings realized by transferring funds used
5 for incarceration (\$50,005 per year) to a structured community
6 placement program (\$18,250 per year) allows the placement
7 program to be revenue neutral at a savings of \$31,775 per year
8 for every ten eligible non-violent female offenders; now,
9 therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Public Safety is requested to reinvest funds used for
15 incarceration to structured community placement programs for
16 eligible non-violent female offenders; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
20 Attorney General, the Director of Public Safety, the President
21 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
22 Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Public Safety,
23 Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the Chairperson
24 of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Public
25 Safety and Military Affairs.
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