

MAR 13 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY TO THOROUGHLY CONSIDER
GRANTING PAROLE TO CLASS A, CLASS B, AND CLASS C FELONS
BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR MAXIMUM TERMS.

1 WHEREAS, in 2006, of the 121 individuals who served their
2 maximum sentence, fifteen (twelve percent) were considered high
3 risk for committing a new crime or parole violation; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in 2011, of the 247 individuals who served their
6 maximum sentence, 101 (forty-one percent) were considered high
7 risk for committing a new crime or parole violation; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the 2011 figure did not include parole violators,
10 including twenty-seven high-risk parolees, who maxed out that
11 year; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the number of high-risk Hawaii inmates who
14 completed their terms and were released without any transition
15 was actually 128; and
16

17 WHEREAS, data from the Interagency Council on Intermediate
18 Sanctions 2008 Cohort - 2011 Recidivism Update show the
19 recidivism rate for probationers at 48.5 percent, the recidivism
20 rate for parolees at 48.4 percent, and the recidivism rate for
21 those who serve their maximum term and are released with no
22 supervision and support at 69.3 percent; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the results of many studies point to the potential
25 psychological harm that long term incarceration can cause; and
26

27 WHEREAS, these findings are critical to policy makers who
28 must decide how best to deal with long term inmates so that when
29 they are released, they can return to the community as
30 productive, law abiding citizens; and
31

32 WHEREAS, more than 100 leading national and state crime
33 victim advocates and survivors have signed on to a statement of
34 guiding principles on sentencing, corrections, and public
35 safety; and



1
2 WHEREAS, one of the seven principles speaks directly to the
3 issue of time served in prison: "While it is important for
4 offenders to receive just punishment, the *quantity* of time that
5 convicted offenders serve under any form of correctional
6 supervision must be balanced with the *quality* of evidence-based
7 assessment, treatment, programming and supervision they receive
8 that can change their criminal behavior and thinking and reduce
9 the likelihood that they will commit future crimes. For many
10 offenses and offenders, shorter prison terms are acceptable if
11 the resulting cost savings are reinvested in evidence-based
12 programs that reduce recidivism"; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
15 convened a Sentencing and Corrections Work Group that included
16 legislators from many states, including Representative Faye
17 Hanohano from Hawaii; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the report, entitled "Principles of Effective
20 State Sentencing and Corrections Policy", states under Principle
21 3 that states should provide "appropriate levels of supervision
22 and services for all offenders as they reenter the community";
23 and
24

25 WHEREAS, releasing individuals from prison directly into
26 the community is not in the best interest of public safety; now,
27 therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
31 that in order to reduce the rate of recidivism in Hawaii, the
32 Hawaii Paroling Authority is encouraged to thoroughly consider
33 granting parole to individuals serving Class A felonies on
34 parole eighteen months before the expiration of their maximum
35 term; individuals serving Class B felonies on parole twelve
36 months before the expiration of their maximum term; and
37 individuals serving Class C felonies on parole six months before
38 the expiration of their maximum term; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety;
42 Hawaii Paroling Authority; Prosecuting Attorneys of the City and
43 County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
44 Chair of the Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and



1 Military Affairs Committee; and Chair of the House Public Safety
2 Committee.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. L.", is written over a horizontal line.

