
SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STAND-
ALONE REENTRY CENTER IN HONOLULU FOR RECOVERING LOW-RISK
CRIMINAL OFFENDERS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL AND DAY-
REPORTING PROGRAM OPTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, reentry is an affordable yet effective process to
2 promote public safety through collaborative partnerships that
3 reflect a seamless system ensuring all returning offenders are
4 law-abiding, productive community citizens; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the State currently assumes responsibility for
7 over 6,000 incarcerated individuals, an eighteen percent
8 increase since fiscal year 2000, approximately 1,600 of whom
9 remain housed in mainland prisons across the continental United
10 States; and
11

12 WHEREAS, in 2012, two Justice Reinvestment Initiative
13 measures were enacted as Acts 139 and 140, Session Laws of
14 Hawaii 2012, to increase the efficiency of Hawaii's correctional
15 system by limiting the maximum probation term for certain Class
16 B and Class C felonies, providing for intensive data-driven
17 analyses by the Council of State Governments Justice Center,
18 bringing home out-of-state prisoners, reducing corrections
19 spending, reinvesting in effective strategies for reduced crime
20 and recidivism, mandating reasonable timeframes for pre-trial
21 risk assessments, requiring validation for these pre-trial risk
22 assessments, limiting incarceration periods for first-time
23 parole violators, and increasing restitution payments deducted
24 from inmate earnings; and
25

26 WHEREAS, reentry facilities house offenders in transitional
27 environments while they learn to reengage with the community,
28 find employment, and become familiar with the social services
29 that will allow them to regain law abiding and productive
30 lifestyles; and
31

32 WHEREAS, community-based reentry centers are ideal short-
33 term placement options for low-risk offenders scheduled for



1 release upon serving sentences at longer term institutions,
2 requiring readjustment after violating community supervision
3 terms, or being assigned from local detention, courts, or other
4 proper jurisdictions; and

5
6 WHEREAS, recidivism rates have been consistently
7 demonstrated by reentry centers across the nation to decrease by
8 more than fifty percent, over five year periods, when compared
9 against baseline recidivism rates associated with traditional
10 incarceration; and

11
12 WHEREAS, community-directed housing facilities are
13 significantly more cost-effective than hard bed incarceration;
14 and

15
16 WHEREAS, reentry centers provide a realistic mechanism for
17 the Governor to address his goal of returning inmates on the
18 mainland to Hawaii, since the one-time total architectural and
19 engineering construction costs for a reentry facility able to
20 accommodate five hundred live-in residents through a public-
21 private partnership is estimated to be \$45,000,000, the
22 equivalent to the cost of housing Hawaii inmates on the mainland
23 for a single year; and

24
25 WHEREAS, existing reentry processes in Hawaii operate
26 through each prison, retaining offenders among the criminal
27 elements reminiscent of their imprisonment terms; whereas a
28 stand-alone reentry program would, by contrast, introduce
29 recovering offenders to a more auspicious environment,
30 facilitated by reentry-specific case managers, counselors, job
31 development specialists, medical professionals, maintenance
32 staff, and security; and

33
34 WHEREAS, proposed reentry initiatives highlight a "Three
35 Phase Progressive Living" structure including: (1) intake
36 processing periods not to exceed thirty days; (2) reentry
37 readiness instructional programming and community service; and
38 (3) community reintegration including financial
39 responsibilities, counseling, and work experience; and

40
41 WHEREAS, a day reporting program component overseeing
42 nonresidential ex-offenders who continue treatment programs at
43 the center around their work schedules would prove an invaluable
44 addition to a reentry center for little additional cost; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

WHEREAS, day reporting programs provide almost daily contact between offenders and their supervising staff members, as well as intense individual and group counseling, drug testing, and flash incarceration for those demonstrating reemerged criminal behavior; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the Department of Public Safety be encouraged to consider the construction and operation of a stand-alone community reentry center in Honolulu for low-risk offenders returning to the community after completing terms of incarceration or returning to custody after violating their terms of parole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reentry programs may include residential and non-residential programs for fully supervised offenders and a day reporting program designed to accommodate the schedules of reintegrated offenders living and working in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Public Safety.

