

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND
EXPAND ITS STRUCTURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PROGRAMS TO
ASSIST IN TRANSITIONING FORMERLY INCARCERATED FEMALE
INMATES BACK INTO SOCIETY.

1 WHEREAS, structured community placement programs that
2 effectively assist formerly incarcerated persons in their
3 transition back into society are needed to reduce incarceration
4 costs and address the problems associated with reentry and the
5 high rate of recidivism; and
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7 WHEREAS, recent data from the Justice Reinvestment
8 Initiative indicates that incarceration is not an effective
9 method for rehabilitating substance abuse addictions, and
10 community-based substance treatment programs are more effective
11 than in-prison treatments; and
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13 WHEREAS, a majority of female offenders in the State commit
14 non-violent crimes and do not pose a threat to the community;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, females offenders who become repeat offenders due
18 to substance abuse addiction greatly cost the public and the
19 State; and
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21 WHEREAS, structured community placement programs help non-
22 violent female offenders break the cycle of substance abuse,
23 crime, and incarceration because many female offenders return to
24 incarceration if their drug or alcohol dependencies are not
25 treated and their recovery is not supported during their
26 transition; and
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28 WHEREAS, the majority of incarcerated female offenders are
29 mothers of minor children, and fragmented families often lead to
30 intergeneration problems, as evidenced by mothers and daughters



1 being incarcerated together at the Women's Community
2 Correctional Center; and

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4 WHEREAS, structured community placement programs create an
5 integrated and seamless re-socialization and reentry process to
6 help formerly incarcerated females adjust to greater
7 independence as they transition and reunite with their children
8 and families; and

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10 WHEREAS, an Oahu-based program has experience in
11 successfully transitioning formerly incarcerated female
12 offenders through structured community placement; and

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14 WHEREAS, as of November 3, 2014, there were six hundred
15 sixty-five women under the care and custody of the Department of
16 Public Safety; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety reported that the
19 cost of incarceration per inmate is \$134 per day compared to \$50
20 per day in a structured community placement program; and

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22 WHEREAS, each female transferred from incarceration to a
23 structured community placement program would provide great cost
24 savings to the Department of Public Safety; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that this body encourages
29 the Department of Public Safety to continue and expand its
30 structured community placement programs to assist in
31 transitioning formerly incarcerated female inmates back into
32 society; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public
36 Safety and the Auditor.

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OFFERED BY: *James H. Han*
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