

MAR 13 2015

SENATE 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

16
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
31 being incarcerated together at the Women's Community
32 Correctional Center; and



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

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 7 WHEREAS, an Oahu-based program has experience in
 8 successfully transitioning formerly incarcerated female
 9 offenders through structured community placement; and

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

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

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

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

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 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety and
 32 the Auditor.

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OFFERED BY: Will Zygo
Randy H. Bell
P.O. Rich-Agan
Annex Hillman

