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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO FORM A WORKING  
GROUP TO EXAMINE SMARTER SENTENCING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY  
AND RELIABILITY OF STATE CRIMINAL SENTENCING PRACTICES.

1           WHEREAS, the prison population in the United States has  
2 grown tremendously over the past four decades despite the  
3 tapering off of crime over the past twenty years, partly due to  
4 the imposition of lengthy sentences; and

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6           WHEREAS, the increasing number of individuals imprisoned  
7 has led to rising operating costs, community reliance on  
8 incarceration, and growing numbers of inmates prematurely  
9 released from prison each year; and

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11           WHEREAS, offender recidivism rates continue to be an issue  
12 because many inmates who are released from incarceration are not  
13 prepared to lead law-abiding lives and reintegrate into society;  
14 and

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16           WHEREAS, the number of inmates prematurely released has led  
17 to a growing sentiment that there is interdependency among  
18 participants in the judicial process that needs to be recognized  
19 in working with each other and in the decision-making processes  
20 regarding offenders; and

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22           WHEREAS, smarter sentencing uses research and science to  
23 enhance the decision making ability of criminal justice  
24 stakeholders in the selection and application of fair, just,  
25 proportionate, and efficient sanctioning goals; and

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27           WHEREAS, at each decision point during the process of  
28 charging an individual with an offense, negotiating and  
29 recommending a plea deal, and determining the ultimate sentence,  
30 there is an opportunity to use research-based smarter  
31 sentencing; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii utilizes mandatory indeterminate sentencing  
2 by which the is authorized, without the benefit of court  
3 supervision, to determine the minimum term of imprisonment; and  
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5 WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the judiciary to retain  
6 statutory authority for minimum sentencing because it is better  
7 situated to make case-by-case determinations with its knowledge  
8 of the facts and law of each case such as whether a crime is  
9 especially heinous, atrocious or cruel; now therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Paroling  
14 Authority is requested to convene a working group to examine the  
15 concept of smarter sentencing to improve the quality and  
16 reliability of the State's criminal justice sentencing policies  
17 and practices; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the working  
20 group is to research:  
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- 22 (1) The number of cases over the last ten years in which  
23 smarter sentencing principles were applied to the  
24 negotiation and recommendation of a sentence;  
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- 26 (2) The number of cases over the past ten years in which  
27 principles of smarter sentencing were applicable; and  
28
- 29 (3) Possibilities of designing, implementing, and  
30 streamlining a process involving smarter sentencing;  
31 and  
32
- 33 (4) The effects of indeterminate sentencing and the  
34 possibility of restoring statutory authority for  
35 minimum sentencing to the judiciary; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Paroling Authority  
38 is requested to include in the working group:  
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- 40 (1) The Chair of the Senate and House of Representatives  
41 committees with primary jurisdiction over the  
42 Judiciary;  
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- 1 (2) The Chair of the Senate and House of Representatives  
2 committees with primary jurisdiction over public  
3 safety;  
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- 5 (3) The county prosecutor of each of the counties of  
6 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of  
7 Honolulu;  
8
- 9 (4) One public defender to represent the Office of the  
10 Public Defender located in each of the counties of  
11 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of  
12 Honolulu;  
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- 14 (5) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's  
15 designee;  
16
- 17 (6) Two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the  
18 Hawaii Supreme Court;  
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- 20 (7) One representative of the American Civil Liberties  
21 Union of Hawaii;  
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- 23 (8) One representative of the Hawaii Civil Rights  
24 Commission; and  
25
- 26 (9) Four members from the community, to be appointed by  
27 the Governor; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
30 to select a chairperson from among its members and meet at least  
31 five times prior to December 31, 2015; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
34 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
35 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
36 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
37 of 2016; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the working group  
40 shall be made subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
41 solely because of that member's participation as a member of the  
42 working group; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved  
2 on June 30, 2016; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President  
6 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director  
7 of Public Safety, Director of the Hawaii Paroling Authority  
8 Board, Hawaii Paroling Authority Administrator, Prosecuting  
9 Attorney of the County of Hawaii, Prosecuting Attorney of the  
10 County of Kauai, Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui,  
11 Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Office  
12 of the Public Defender, Attorney General, Administrator of the  
13 Courts, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union  
14 of Hawaii, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights  
15 Commission.  
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