
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY-BASED
WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST FEMALE INMATES TRANSITION
BACK INTO SOCIETY.

1 WHEREAS, as of November 3, 2014, there were 665 women under
2 the care and custody of the Department of Public Safety
3 (Department); and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department reported that the cost of
6 incarceration is \$134 per day for each inmate; and
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8 WHEREAS, a majority of female offenders in the State commit
9 nonviolent crimes and do not pose a threat to the community; and
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11 WHEREAS, the majority of incarcerated females are mothers
12 of minor children and family fragmentation caused by a mother's
13 incarceration increases the likelihood that her children will
14 also be incarcerated someday; and
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16 WHEREAS, many female offenders are reincarcerated if their
17 recovery is not supported during their transition back into
18 society; and
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20 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women have a disproportionate
21 representation in the State's criminal justice system making up
22 more than 44 percent of the incarcerated female population and
23 with higher incarceration rates than Native Hawaiian men; and
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25 WHEREAS, recent data from the Justice Reinvestment
26 Initiative indicate that incarceration is not an effective
27 method for rehabilitating persons with substance abuse
28 addictions and community-based substance abuse treatment
29 programs are more effective than in-prison treatment; and



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1 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs that assist
2 inmates to transition back from prison to the community reduce
3 incarceration costs, address problems associated with reentry
4 and the high rate of recidivism, and create safer communities;
5 and

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7 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs that
8 provide support and informed care for female offenders affected
9 by trauma can help them break the cycle of substance abuse,
10 crime, and incarceration; and

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12 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs create an
13 integrated and seamless resocialization and reentry process to
14 help female inmates adjust to greater independence as they
15 transition back into society and reunite with their children and
16 families; and

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18 WHEREAS, a 2012 Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report
19 found that placement of Native Hawaiians in community-based,
20 cultural, and trauma-informed reentry programs are effective in
21 reducing recidivism; and

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23 WHEREAS, Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine, an Oahu-based
24 program and the only women's community-based work furlough
25 program in the State, has successfully transitioned female
26 inmates in a community-based work furlough program that
27 emphasizes a gender-responsive, culturally-sensitive, and
28 trauma-informed framework; and

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30 WHEREAS, two years after being released from prison, 82.4
31 percent of women inmates who participate in Ka Hale Ho ala Hou
32 No Na Wahine remain integrated into society, free from prison;
33 and

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35 WHEREAS, accordingly, Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine can
36 serve as a successful reentry model for future community-based
37 work furlough programs; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Public
42 Safety is encouraged to continue and expand its structured,



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1 community-based work furlough programs to assist female inmates
2 transition back into society; and

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

OFFERED BY:

Ally A. Schmitt

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MAR 10 2017

