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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2001, the federal  
2 Bureau of Prisons opened the Honolulu Federal Detention Center  
3 at an approximate cost of \$170,000,000.

4           Located on the west side of the Daniel K. Inouye  
5 International Airport, the Honolulu Federal Detention Center  
6 houses male and female federal pre-trial detainees, sentenced  
7 felons who have almost completed their prison terms, and Hawaii  
8 inmates who are awaiting trial in state court, at an occupancy  
9 rate far below the facility's total capacity of one thousand two  
10 hundred beds.

11           The Honolulu Federal Detention Center currently houses four  
12 hundred eight inmates in an efficient vertical design that  
13 requires fewer workers to manage detainees, includes integrated  
14 state-of-the-art surveillance and management technologies, and  
15 accommodates a wide variety of uses including cells, office  
16 areas, medical facilities, recreational areas, storage rooms,



1 food preparation areas, laundry, mechanical rooms, security, and  
2 communications.

3 The State has struggled for years to find additional  
4 capacity for its overcrowded jails and prisons, which were  
5 designed to hold a combined total of 2,491 inmates, but the  
6 State currently has 5,375 inmates. Replacing or refurbishing  
7 state prisons and jails to meet the current demand for adequate  
8 space and services would cost an estimated \$1,500,000,000 to  
9 \$2,000,000,000.

10 Since June 2001, the State has leased bed space at the  
11 Honolulu Federal Detention Center to relieve jail overcrowding.  
12 In mid-January 2019, it housed one hundred sixty male and female  
13 inmates under the department of public safety's jurisdiction at  
14 a daily rate of \$123.19 per inmate.

15 Furthermore, the number of Honolulu Federal Detention  
16 Center inmates should likely decrease further after President  
17 Donald Trump signed in December 2018 a bipartisan criminal  
18 justice reform bill called the First Step Act of 2018, which, in  
19 part, is aimed to reduce recidivism and decrease the number of  
20 inmates currently housed in federal correctional facilities.



1 State acquisition of the Honolulu Federal Detention Center  
2 would enable it to serve as the new Oahu community correctional  
3 center and eliminate the immediate financial burden of building  
4 a new state correctional facility. This will also enable the  
5 current Oahu community correctional center site to be vacated by  
6 the department of public safety and turned over to the Kalihi  
7 community for its use.

8 The legislature further finds that there has long been  
9 interest in obtaining the Honolulu Federal Detention Center. In  
10 2016, House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 requested Hawaii's  
11 congressional delegation to assist the State in negotiating with  
12 the federal government for the acquisition of the Honolulu  
13 Federal Detention Center.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
15 purchase of the Honolulu Federal Detention Center.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
20 2020-2021 to purchase the Honolulu Federal Detention Center for  
21 the purpose of housing state detainees and inmates, relieving



1 overcrowding at state jails and prisons, and eliminating the  
2 financial costs of leasing bed space for state inmates at the  
3 Honolulu Federal Detention Center.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
5 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Honolulu Federal Detention Center; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to purchase the Honolulu Federal Detention Center. (HB1177 HD1)

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