

JAN 27 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ALLOW FAITH PODS
BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH
CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians are severely overrepresented in
2 the State's prison population and have a much higher recidivism
3 rate than non-Hawaiians; and
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5 WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua is defined as "a place of refuge,
6 sanctuary, asylum, place of peace and safety" and is based on
7 Hawaiian cultural practices that can help the native Hawaiian
8 community and the community at-large; and
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10 WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua is a decentralized wellness center that
11 can act as an alternative to building more prisons in the State
12 and is based on healing inhabitants and eventually returning
13 them back to the community; and
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15 WHEREAS, there is a resurgence of native Hawaiian cultural
16 practices and an increased focus on the importance of
17 maintaining native Hawaiian cultural practices; and
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19 WHEREAS, non-violence has always been key to native
20 Hawaiians, as represented in the native Hawaiian practice of
21 kapu aloha; and
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23 WHEREAS, incarcerated individuals, or pa'ahao, have
24 initiated Hawaiian cultural programs within different
25 correctional systems known as "faith pods" throughout the nation
26 to help promote safe spaces to heal and regain their identity as
27 native Hawaiians; and
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29 WHEREAS, Act 117, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, sought to
30 "reduce recidivism, prevent crime, and ensure long-term positive
31 change by developing a plan to create a wellness center that
32 reestablishes highly recognized native Hawaiian cultural
33 practices to restore the overall well-being of persons,
34 families, and the native Hawaiian community"; and
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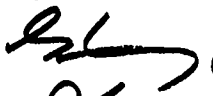
S.R. NO. 20

1 WHEREAS, there have been many attempts to improve the
 2 correctional system in the State but none has provided native
 3 Hawaiians with the opportunity to practice native Hawaiian
 4 cultural practices; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 7 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 8 Department of Public Safety is requested to allow "faith pods"
 9 based upon kapu aloha to be established within each correctional
 10 center in the State to allow incarcerated individuals a choice
 11 to reestablish recognized native Hawaiian cultural practices to
 12 restore the overall well-being of the native Hawaiian community;
 13 and
 14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 16 Resolution be transmitted to Director of Public Safety.
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OFFERED BY:


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