
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE WOMEN'S CORRECTIONS IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN INCARCERATED AT THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER BY TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

1 WHEREAS, transforming the State's prison system from a
2 punitive to a rehabilitative model is a priority of this body;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, this body has given specific programmatic
6 attention to women in the criminal justice system; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent
9 Resolution No. 85, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2016,
10 which requested the establishment of a task force to study
11 effective incarceration policies in Hawaii and other
12 jurisdictions; and

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14 WHEREAS, the final report of the task force stated that
15 "the current model of prisons in Hawaii reinforces
16 institutionalized thinking and thought patterns and re-
17 traumatizes women"; and

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19 WHEREAS, the final report emphasized that "[w]omen should
20 be placed in community-based programs as soon as possible after
21 incarceration" because "being part of a community and learning
22 to navigate that community reinforces the reality that there is
23 something beyond incarceration,"; and

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25 WHEREAS, the final report also highlighted the differences
26 between women and men offenders and found that women offenders
27 "tend to have a history of physical and/or sexual abuse" and
28 that their "involvement in criminal activity is often motivated



1 by poverty and/or substance abuse, and they are less likely than
2 men to have been convicted of a violent crime"; and

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4 WHEREAS, according to the 2023 Annual Report of the
5 Criminal Justice Research Institute, roughly 86.5 percent of
6 women at the Women's Community Correctional Center had no
7 violent offenses under the Women's Corrections Implementation
8 Commission's definition of "violent offense"; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature specifically recognized the
11 differences between women and men in the criminal justice system
12 when it established the Women's Corrections Implementation
13 Commission under Act 244, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, to, among
14 other things, "[d]evelop and implement an evidence-based,
15 gender-responsive plan to divert non-violent women offenders,
16 especially those with minor children, from the criminal justice
17 system"; and

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19 WHEREAS, there has been little progress diverting non-
20 violent women offenders from prison as the recidivism rate
21 remains at fifty percent and the population at the Women's
22 Community Correctional Center remains at approximately two
23 hundred, a nine hundred fifty percent increase since 1978 when
24 only nineteen women were incarcerated there; and

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26 WHEREAS, the lack of progress diverting women from the
27 criminal justice system can be traced to two failings: the lack
28 of a definite, measurable goal by which to reduce the number of
29 incarcerated women and a lack of resources allocated to proven
30 community-based rehabilitative programs; and

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32 WHEREAS, there is a need in the State to establish policy
33 changes regarding probation, parole, and restitution; set
34 measurable goals to reduce the number of incarcerated women; and
35 provide sufficient resources to community-based programs to
36 include mental health counseling, drug and alcohol treatment,
37 education, and job training; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
41 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Women's
42 Corrections Implementation Commission is requested to develop a
43 strategy and make recommendations to reduce the number of women



1 incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center by
2 twenty-five percent by 2029; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in developing a strategy and
5 making recommendations, the Women's Corrections Implementation
6 Commission is requested to work with the Judiciary, Department
7 of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services,
8 Department of Health, Department of Education, Office of the
9 State Public Defender, Hawaii Paroling Authority, each county
10 police department and county prosecuting attorney, and
11 community-based organizations; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women's Corrections
14 Implementation Commission is requested to submit:

- 15
16 (1) An initial report of its findings and recommendations,
17 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature
18 no later than November 1, 2024; and
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20 (2) Subsequent reports of its findings and
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
22 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
23 the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2026, 2027,
24 2028, and 2029; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrative
28 Director of the Courts, Director of Corrections and
29 Rehabilitation, Director of Human Services, Director of Health,
30 Superintendent of Education, State Public Defender, Chairperson
31 of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, chiefs of police of each
32 county, and prosecuting attorneys of each county.

