
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRISONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that offenders who
2 receive program and employment opportunities in prison prior to
3 being released back into the community have much greater chances
4 of not returning to prison. Inmates who receive these
5 opportunities while they are classified at the minimum or
6 community custody level are more likely to successfully return
7 to society and participate as productive, law-abiding citizens.

8 Minimum custody inmates have demonstrated they can function
9 with minimal supervision in a correctional setting or in the
10 community under direct supervision. Community custody inmates
11 are eligible to participate in community release programs such
12 as work furlough, extended furlough, or residential transitional
13 living centers.

14 However, due to budget constraints, Hawaii has only two
15 minimum-security prisons, Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu
16 and Kulani correctional facility on the island of Hawaii.
17 Waiawa was designed for two hundred ninety-four inmates and
18 Kulani often exceeds its operational capacity of one hundred



1 sixty beds. The legislature finds that a total of five hundred
2 fifty-four beds for inmates who are ready to be reintegrated
3 into the community is woefully lacking.

4 According to the department of public safety's 2004 annual
5 report, thirty-nine per cent of male inmates and forty-seven per
6 cent of female inmates are classified as minimum or community
7 custody. Based on the department's January 16, 2006 population
8 figures, this means that there are currently 2,459 inmates who
9 qualify for reintegration programs through educational,
10 substance abuse treatment, vocational training, employment
11 opportunities, and workline projects in the community.

12 The purpose of this Act is to increase the number of
13 minimum custody housing for inmates, encourage a programs
14 approach to inmate case management, and develop more work
15 opportunities for inmates to benefit the community.

16 SECTION 2. The department of public safety is authorized
17 to seek opportunities to build minimum security housing of the
18 type that can be erected in a fairly short amount of time, such
19 as housing structures used by the military, on a portion of the
20 Kalaeloa parcel under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii community
21 development authority. The department of public safety and the
22 Hawaii community development authority shall explore the



1 feasibility of planning, designing, and constructing a suitable
2 minimum security facility at the Kalaeloa site using pre-
3 fabricated and quick-build design housing programs.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
7 planning, design, and construction of minimum security housing
8 for inmates.

9 SECTION 4. The department of public safety shall adopt a
10 policy that mandates all inmates to participate in facility
11 programs, provided that medical and mental health concerns are
12 considered when waiving an inmate's participation. This
13 programs approach to case management shall be implemented as a
14 means to assist minimum and community custody level inmates with
15 educational and employment opportunities when they are released
16 back into our neighborhoods and communities.

17 SECTION 5. In-facility workline programs and in-community
18 workline programs provide productive, mutually beneficial
19 results for the inmate, the facility, and the community. The
20 department of public safety is directed to increase the scope
21 and number of workline programs it currently operates at its
22 prison and jail facilities.



1 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
 4 developing and operating in-facility workline programs at each
 5 correctional facility and in-community workline projects
 6 throughout the State.

7 SECTION 7. The department of public safety shall submit a
 8 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
 9 start of the regular session of the 2007 legislature on the
 10 status of this Act, including cost implications, statutory
 11 impediments, and proposals for new legislation, if needed.

12 SECTION 8. The sums appropriated in sections 3 and 6 shall
 13 be expended by the department of public safety for the purposes
 14 of this Act.

15 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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HB 2833

Report Title:

Prison Facilities; Kalaeloa; HCDA; Community Worklines

Description:

Directs the department of public safety to adopt strict policies regarding program participation by inmates. Appropriates funds to increase prison worklines in the community. Authorizes HCDA to contract for minimum security inmate housing at Kalaeloa.

