
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES NAVY PARTNER WITH THE STATE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO UTILIZE DECOMMISSIONED NAVAL SHIPS AS PRISON FACILITIES FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

1 WHEREAS, overcrowding at the State's prison facilities is a
2 problem that has grown steadily over recent years; and
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4 WHEREAS, providing decent, affordable, and secure prison
5 facilities to incarcerate criminals within the State is a
6 perpetual problem that seems to defy an easy solution; and
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8 WHEREAS, due to the ever-increasing need to incarcerate
9 prisoners, the State has resorted to transferring a significant
10 population of prisoners to out-of-state prison facilities; and
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12 WHEREAS, transferring prisoners out-of-state places a
13 psychological and emotional burden on not only the prisoners,
14 but on their loved ones as well; and
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16 WHEREAS, although the State has tried to address the issue
17 of constructing a new prison facility, whenever a potential site
18 is proposed, intense community opposition usually ensues; and
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20 WHEREAS, unfortunately, many communities shun the placement
21 of such facilities in their neighborhoods, leaving prison
22 facility planners searching again and again for sites that would
23 not adversely impact an existing community; and
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25 WHEREAS, the United States Navy currently possesses a
26 number of decommissioned ships that are anchored at Waipio Point
27 on the island of Oahu; and
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29 WHEREAS, these ships could possibly be utilized as prison
30 facilities that could serve as a detention center for nonviolent
31 offenders who were convicted for crimes that are classified as a
32 misdemeanor or lower; and
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1 WHEREAS, the ships, due to their inherent isolation, would
2 provide an additional security barrier; and
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4 WHEREAS, since these ships are anchored offshore, the
5 surrounding community will be minimally impacted; now,
6 therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2006, that the United States Navy is requested to partner
11 with the State of Hawaii in developing and implementing a plan
12 to utilize decommissioned naval ships as detention facilities
13 for nonviolent offenders who were convicted for crimes that are
14 classified as a misdemeanor or lower; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
17 report to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to
18 the convening of the 2007 Regular Session on the actions taken
19 by the State to implement this Resolution in partnership with
20 the United States Navy; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief of the
24 United States Navy Pacific Fleet, the Governor, the Director of
25 Public Safety, the Director of Health, and the Attorney General.
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