
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALING PROGRAM THAT
EMPHASIZE THE PRACTICE OF HO'OPONOPONO AND THE CONCEPT OF
PU'UHONUA FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND PAROLEES TO FACILITATE THEIR
REHABILITATION AND REENTRY INTO SOCIETY AND TO REDUCE
RECIDIVISM.

1 WHEREAS, according to Department of Public Safety
2 statistics published in 2005, approximately forty-four per cent
3 of female offenders and thirty-seven per cent of male offenders
4 are of Native Hawaiian ancestry; and
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6 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians cultural practices include the
7 principle of ho'oponopono, or the act of righting a wrong through
8 traditional means of conflict resolution; and
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10 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians cultural practices include the
11 concept of pu'uhonua, or place of refuge, where one who breaks
12 the kapu, or rules, can go to avoid punishment, and after making
13 the required restitution, can return home; and
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15 WHEREAS, healing programs based on Native Hawaiian
16 practices have already proven to be effective, such as the
17 Girls' Court Program, a gender-specific and strength-based
18 program targeting female juvenile offenders, which was granted
19 the unique opportunity to volunteer on Kaho'olawe, where they
20 lived together, shared and restored the land by planting native
21 species of vegetation, cleared trails and paths, and learned
22 about the island's history; and
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24 WHEREAS, these young women benefited personally,
25 spiritually, and educationally from this unique experience
26 through learning about their culture, providing community
27 service, and self-discovery about their young womanhood; and
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29 WHEREAS, a healing program for ex-offenders and parolees
30 targeted at healing and teaching Native Hawaiian traditions and
31 cultural practices would greatly benefit these individuals who



1 could also develop self worth and pride in their culture by
2 increasing their knowledge and providing a purpose for
3 themselves, their families, and for future generations of
4 Hawaii's people; and
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6 WHEREAS, this program could teach participants life skills
7 with an emphasis on Native Hawaiian cultural traditions, and
8 help them become acquainted or reacquainted with their rich
9 heritage; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
13 that the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, with the
14 assistance of the Department of Public Safety, convene a task
15 force to study the feasibility of a statewide healing program
16 for ex-offenders and parolees that:
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- 18 (1) Emphasizes Native Hawaiian practices;
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- 20 (2) Includes the practice of ho'oponopono and the concept
21 of pu'uhonua;
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- 23 (3) Establishes a pu'uhonua on each island to facilitate
24 ho'oponopono; and
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- 26 (4) Considers the possibility of a reciprocal healing
27 program on Kaho'olawe; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
30 representatives of the following entities:
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- 32 (1) Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission;
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- 34 (2) The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;
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- 36 (3) The Department of Public Safety;
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- 38 (4) The Department of Human Services;
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- 40 (5) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
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- 42 (6) Any other vested stakeholder these entities see fit;
43 and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be open to
3 ex-offender and parolees who exhibit interest in and ability to
4 benefit from what would be a physically, mentally, and
5 spiritually challenging experience; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force look at
8 expanding existing programs and establishing new programs to
9 meet the needs of ex-offender and parolee populations throughout
10 the State; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider the
13 possible use of a reciprocal healing program at Kaho'olawe that
14 would not require the construction of a correctional facility or
15 any other additional facilities and would fully comply with
16 chapter 6K, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Title X of the 1993
17 Department of Defense and Appropriations Act; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Department of Public Safety is
20 requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the
21 establishment of the task force requested by this measure,
22 including but not limited to any recommendations of the task
23 force no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
24 Regular Session of 2008; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the
28 Director of Human Resources, the Chairperson of the Board of
29 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chairperson of
30 the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, and the Chairperson of
31 the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

