

MAR 08 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR
INCARCERATED PERSONS TO ASSIST WITH THEIR TRANSITION BACK
INTO THE COMMUNITY UPON RELEASE.

1 WHEREAS, there is a high rate of recidivism among the
2 former inmate population, due, in large part, to the many
3 problems former inmates are faced with during the reintegration
4 period, including workplace restrictions, housing restrictions,
5 and many informal restrictions resulting from societal prejudice
6 against former offenders; and
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8 WHEREAS, this high rate of recidivism of former prison
9 inmates is very costly to the State and its residents, both
10 economically and socially, in the form of increased criminal
11 activity; and
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13 WHEREAS, the recidivism rate can be dramatically reduced
14 through the implementation of programs to assist these
15 individuals' post-incarceration community integration; and
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17 WHEREAS, education is the key to success for many former
18 inmates, motivating them to reach their potential, teaching them
19 to accept responsibility for their actions, helping them
20 understand the connection between cause and effect, and how to
21 make changes and better decisions; and
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23 WHEREAS, these educational efforts must be initiated while
24 individuals are incarcerated and must continue throughout the
25 transition period after release to be truly successful in
26 combating recidivism; and
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28 WHEREAS, separate programs and schools for former inmates
29 may provide a more comfortable environment for those wishing to
30 continue their education and training; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
34 that the Department of Education is requested to establish:
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- (1) Special schooling or programs to encourage and provide opportunities for inmates exiting prison to obtain a general education development diploma to increase an inmate's opportunities to obtain employment in the community;
- (2) A special school or schools at appropriate locations to accomplish the general education development school initiative;
- (3) A permanent, personalized educational and job preparation plan for parolees and other released persons who express a desire for additional education to prepare for a gainful employment; and
- (4) A voluntary data tracking system that is developed and maintained in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety to identify successful educational components; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety is requested to establish:

- (1) Distance learning programs for inmates still incarcerated to facilitate educational opportunities;
- (2) Programs, developed in conjunction with the Department of Education, to assist inmates with the continuation of educational plans and preparation for gainful employment upon release; and
- (3) A voluntary data tracking system that is developed and maintained in conjunction with the department of education to identify successful educational components; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Education and Public Safety shall submit to the Legislature a report on the establishment of programs and systems requested by this Resolution, including but not limited to data on inmates who continue with educational plans begun while incarcerated, successful and unsuccessful educational components, and any recommendations for successful inmate reintegration into the



1 community, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2008; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education, the
6 Superintendent of Education, and the Director of Public Safety.
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OFFERED BY:

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