
SENATE RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE STRENGTHENING AND EXPANSION 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, the Department of Education has eleven Community
29 Schools for Adults which offer a wide variety of services,
30 including adult literacy, elementary and secondary education,
31 parenting, and community education classes; and
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33 WHEREAS, Kulani Correctional Facility has a positive
34 reintegration program that is culturally sensitive and works in



1 conjunction with the Hilo Community School for adults that could
2 serve as a model for other correctional facilities; and
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4 WHEREAS, formerly incarcerated individuals would be more
5 successful in completing educational programs after release if
6 they were assisted in the transition, including finding and
7 enrolling in the appropriate continuing education program; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
12 that the Department of Public Safety is requested to:
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14 (1) Report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
15 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008
16 with:
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18 (A) The existing programs offered under the
19 Corrections Education Division at each facility,
20 including the number of staff and students;
21

22 (B) The current budget for each program at each
23 facility;
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25 (C) The student achievement outcomes from each
26 program at each facility; and
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28 (D) A list of all staff, supplies, and equipment
29 necessary to improve the existing programs or to
30 implement new programs to prepare inmates for
31 reintegration, including the possible expansion
32 of the Kulani Correctional Facility program to
33 other facilities; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Education
36 and Public Safety is requested to work together to:
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38 (1) Examine the current data tracking systems of the
39 Departments and the feasibility of integrating these
40 systems to ensure inmates taking GED or other courses
41 before release continue the necessary courses upon
42 release;
43



- 1 (2) Examine the feasibility, uses, and costs of jointly
2 hiring counselors and other necessary staff to help
3 inmates transition from their programs while
4 incarcerated to their needed courses and training
5 post-release;
6
- 7 (3) Work with the Department of Labor and Industrial
8 Relations and the Adult Mental Health Division of the
9 Department of Health to create a permanent,
10 personalized educational and job preparation plan for
11 soon-to-be-released inmates, parolees, and other
12 released persons who express a desire for additional
13 education to prepare for a gainful employment; and
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- 15 (4) Submit a report on their findings and progress with to
16 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
17 convening of the Regular Session of 2008, with their
18 findings; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education, the
22 Superintendent of Education, the Director of Public Safety, the
23 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Director of
24 the Department of Health.

