
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH AN INMATE
CONSERVATION CORPS PILOT PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources'
2 Youth Conservation Corps program helps participants develop a
3 sense of stewardship of the land and build valuable work
4 experience through community service, training, and education;
5 and

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7 WHEREAS, a similar program utilizing Hawaii corrections
8 inmates as conservation corps participants could work to protect
9 and preserve Hawaii's natural environment and would prove to be
10 beneficial for the State; and

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12 WHEREAS, inmates who have earned community custody status
13 can be educated and trained to help manage and protect Hawaii's
14 natural resources; and

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16 WHEREAS, an inmate conservation corps can provide
17 assistance with trail maintenance, native plant restoration,
18 invasive species control, wildlife management, fence building,
19 stream and coastal restoration, and other conservation work; and

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21 WHEREAS, being part of a conservation corps would encourage
22 leadership, teamwork, communication, and responsibility among
23 the inmate participants; and

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25 WHEREAS, an inmate conservation corps would ideally include
26 activities that promote:

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28 (1) The importance of responsibility, dependability,
29 punctuality, and good attendance;

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- 1 (2) Worksite relations skills, including taking
- 2 constructive criticism, working cooperatively with
- 3 other corps members and staff, and western and
- 4 traditional Hawaiian job skills;
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- 6 (3) Life skills training, including instruction in
- 7 conflict resolution, job search skills, personal money
- 8 management, goal setting, and decision making; and
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- 10 (4) Education for twenty hours each week on subjects such
- 11 as genealogy, Hawaiian language and traditional
- 12 practices, reading, math, communication skills,
- 13 English language proficiency, academic preparation,
- 14 and work-specific skills; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the

17 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular

18 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of

19 Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety

20 are requested to establish an inmate conservation corps pilot

21 program on the island of Hawaii to perform resource conservation

22 projects including, but not limited to, forest fire prevention,

23 forest and watershed management, maintenance of recreation

24 areas, fish and game management, soil conservation, forest and

25 watershed re-vegetation, preventive maintenance or

26 reconstruction of levees, or any other work necessary to prevent

27 flood damage; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and

30 Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety are

31 requested to select participants for the inmate conservation

32 corps pilot program that:

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- 34 (1) Are classified as minimum security risk, are housed at
- 35 a minimum security correctional facility, or have
- 36 attained community custody status; and
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- 38 (2) Have completed appropriate basic education and
- 39 training so as to be prepared for additional education
- 40 and training in natural resources conservation; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and

43 Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety are

44 requested to:

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- (1) Ensure that participants are physically fit for work outdoors and are likely to be successful in completing conservation projects;
- (2) Provide supervision for all inmate conservation corps program participants at all projects, and for each time the corps is at a site outside of a correctional facility; and
- (3) Determine any fees to be collected for services provided by the corps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety are requested to submit a joint report to the Legislature of all activities relating to the inmate conservation corps pilot program, including findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Public Safety, and the Mayor of Hawaii County.

OFFERED BY: Cindy Evans
MAR 04 2008