

JAN 17 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that approximately one
2 hundred seventy-five women prisoners who are residents of the
3 State of Hawaii are incarcerated in mainland prisons. Many of
4 these women are parents.

5 The increased likelihood of children of incarcerated
6 parents being at high risk for physical and mental problems,
7 aggression, and criminal activity has been documented in
8 numerous studies by various institutions, including the Center
9 for Children of Incarcerated Parents, the Child Welfare League
10 of America, and the Federal Resource Center for Children of
11 Prisoners.

12 The legislature further finds that the children of
13 prisoners incarcerated on the mainland have an even higher risk
14 of becoming troubled due to the geographical separation that
15 precludes regular visits between parent and child and limits
16 access to support services.



1 The legislature further finds that the current contract for
2 incarcerating female prisoners, who are residents of Hawaii, on
3 the mainland expires in October 2008.

4 The purpose of this Act is to create a plan to return all
5 female prisoners who are residents of Hawaii and incarcerated on
6 the mainland to Hawaii by July 1, 2009.

7 SECTION 2. The department of public safety shall develop a
8 plan, to be completed by January 1, 2009, to return to the State
9 of Hawaii by July 1, 2009, all female prisoners who are
10 residents of the State of Hawaii and who have been sent to the
11 mainland for incarceration.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for
15 the development of a plan to return to the State of Hawaii by
16 July 1, 2009, all female prisoners who are residents of the
17 State of Hawaii and who have been sent to the mainland for
18 incarceration.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 public safety for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Will Zygo
Clarence K. Hoshel
Norman Sakonjs
Jim
Dave Johnson
Yudhanja
Sudhakar

Yudhanja



Report Title:

Public Safety; Women Prisoners; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of public safety to develop a plan by July 1, 2008, to return all female Hawaii prisoners incarcerated in mainland prisons back to Hawaii by July 1, 2009.

