

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds there is a
2 disproportionately high rate of arrest and incarceration among
3 young men and women of Hawaiian ancestry. It is estimated that
4 of the over two thousand incarcerated Hawaiians, seventy per
5 cent are between twenty and forty years of age.

6 A promising approach to reducing recidivism and helping
7 inmates make the successful transition from prison to the
8 community is cognitive restructuring and transition programs
9 provided at correctional facilities. Such programs involve
10 self-examination of an inmate's belief system, criminal
11 addictive cycle, attitudes and thinking patterns, and develop
12 relapse prevention plans for future situations. The program
13 assists offenders in restructuring their thought processes and
14 teaches cognitive skills that help with basic decision-making
15 and problem-solving. The goal of cognitive restructuring is to
16 guide offenders to consciously examine their own thoughts by
17 engaging in processes that develop self control, thus making
18 them responsible for, and in charge of, their actions no matter



1 how stressful the situation. When combined with strategies that
2 help Hawaiian inmates get back in touch with the values of their
3 culture, cognitive rehabilitation can help break the vicious
4 cycle of crime and punishment as knowledge of Hawaiian
5 traditions and cultural values have helped many cope with social
6 challenges.

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide the department of
8 public safety funding to establish reintegration programs within
9 correctional facilities combining cognitive behavioral theory
10 with Native Hawaiian holistic interventions to address domestic
11 violence, addictions, self mastery through identity, and
12 community connections for successful transitions back into the
13 community.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
17 cognitive restructuring reintegration programs using Native
18 Hawaiian holistic methods for incarcerated persons.

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



S.B. NO. 2353

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

2

INTRODUCED BY: *Shianne Chun Oakland*



Report Title:

Corrections; Rehabilitation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Public Safety to provide reintegration programs that combine cognitive behavioral theory with Native Hawaiian holistic interventions that address domestic violence, addictions, self mastery through identity, and community connections for successful transitions back into the community.

