
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The offender reentry legislative oversight
2 committee established pursuant to section 353H-21, Hawaii
3 Revised Statutes, shall establish a work group to conduct a
4 study and convene public hearings to determine the factors that
5 contribute to the arrests, sentences, and over-representation of
6 native Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians in the State's prisons and
7 jails. While approximately twenty per cent of the State's
8 population is of native Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian ancestry, it
9 is estimated that over forty per cent of the total population of
10 incarcerated felons in the State are native Hawaiian or part-
11 Hawaiian.

12 It shall be the priority of the work group to examine the
13 reporting system used by the department of public safety to
14 determine the number of arrested, sentenced, and incarcerated
15 native Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians in the correctional system
16 to ensure that the methodology employed is not producing
17 inaccurate or misleading statistics.



1 (b) Representatives from government agencies such as the
2 department of public safety, department of health, department of
3 human services, Hawaii paroling authority, office of Hawaiian
4 affairs, the judiciary, legislative reference bureau, and the
5 University of Hawaii are invited to participate. Nonprofit
6 organizations, community groups, and other parties concerned
7 about the tremendous rate of arrests, sentences, and
8 incarcerations of native Hawaiians may also participate.

9 (c) The work group shall gather and analyze the statistics
10 and data on past and present native Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians
11 who were arrested, sentenced, and incarcerated, and make
12 recommendations to reduce the percentage of native Hawaiians and
13 part-Hawaiians that are arrested, sentenced, and incarcerated.
14 The work group shall submit a report of its findings and
15 recommendations to the legislature no later than October 1,
16 2009.

17 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Prisons; Native Hawaiians; Offender Reentry Legislative
Oversight Committee

Description:

Requires the offender reentry legislative oversight committee to establish a work group to conduct a study and convene public hearings to determine the factors that contribute to the arrests, sentences, and over-representation in the State's prisons and jails of native Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians. (SD1)

