

JAN 19 2007

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to the  
2 department of public safety, Hawaii parolees incarcerated in the  
3 State had a deplorable recidivism rate of between forty-seven  
4 and fifty-seven per cent. The recidivism rate for inmates who  
5 were housed at out-of-state facilities was even higher, ranging  
6 from fifty to seventy-eight per cent. A promising approach to  
7 reducing recidivism and helping inmates make the successful  
8 transition from prison to the community is to establish a  
9 cognitive restructuring and transition program at correctional  
10 facilities.

11           Cognitive restructuring is based on the principle that  
12 thinking, an internal behavior, controls overt actions, an  
13 external behavior. Cognitive restructuring focuses on the way  
14 thoughts and beliefs drive a person's behavior. A cognitive  
15 restructuring program for inmates involves self-examination of  
16 their belief system, criminal addictive cycle, attitudes and  
17 thinking patterns, and develops a relapse prevention plan for  
18 future situations. The program assists offenders in



1 "restructuring" their thought process and teaches cognitive  
2 skills that help them with basic decision-making and problem-  
3 solving. The goal of cognitive restructuring is to guide  
4 offenders to consciously examine their own thoughts by engaging  
5 in processes that develop self control, thus making them  
6 responsible for, and in charge of, their actions no matter how  
7 stressful the situation.

8 The legislature further finds that transition programs  
9 prepare an inmate to make a successful transition from prison to  
10 the community by assisting them with skills to find housing,  
11 prepare for employment, learn money management, and obtain  
12 support from other resources to become productive, law-abiding  
13 citizens.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to  
15 establish a cognitive restructuring and transition pilot program  
16 in the county of Hawaii to help inmates achieve a successful  
17 transition into the community.

18 SECTION 2. The cognitive restructuring transition pilot  
19 program shall teach specific skills that include problem  
20 solving, social skills training, anger management, and empathy  
21 training. The cognitive restructuring and transition pilot



1 program shall be established in the county of Hawaii at Kulani  
2 correctional facility and Hale Nani.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$33,000, or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the  
6 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2008-2009, for a cognitive restructuring and transition pilot  
8 program to be established in the county of Hawaii at Kulani  
9 correctional facility, Hawaii community correctional center, and  
10 Hale Nani reintegration center.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Corrections; Transition Programs; Cognitive Restructuring;  
Hawaii County

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of public safety to provide a cognitive restructuring and transition program in the county of Hawaii.

