

MAR 10 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY IN HAWAII OF COMMUNITY-BASED AND WORK CAMP
ALTERNATIVES TO MAINLAND PRISONS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's prisons are so over crowded that
2 prisoners are being sent to the mainland United States, which
3 effectively cuts-off the prisoners from their families and other
4 support systems; and

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6 WHEREAS, effective alternative placements are needed to
7 keep prisoners in Hawaii, so that they can maintain contact with
8 family members, especially their children, through programs
9 targeted to teaching useable skills; and

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11 WHEREAS, community-based and work camp correction programs
12 could be viable alternatives for many nonviolent criminal
13 offenders; and

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15 WHEREAS, these community-based correction programs include
16 work release, community service, rehabilitation, and work camps;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, community-based programs keep offenders
20 accountable for their actions while keeping community support
21 intact; and

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23 WHEREAS, the development of community-based programs and
24 work camps would benefit Hawaii financially by creating more
25 business and work opportunities; and

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27 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Public Safety, in
28 2007, thirty-nine per cent of Hawaii's prisoners were Hawaiian
29 or part Hawaiian; and

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31 WHEREAS, many of such prisoners would benefit from
32 practicing Native Hawaiian cultural practices, including the



1 principle of ho'oponopono, or the act of righting a wrong through
2 traditional means of conflict resolution, and including the
3 concept of pu'uhonua, or place of refuge, where one who breaks
4 the kapu, or rules, can go to avoid punishment, and after making
5 the required restitution, can return home; and

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7 WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians consider the island of
8 Kaho'olawe sacred and this island needs an ongoing source of
9 people to maintain the integrity of the island; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Public Safety is requested to convene the Task Force for
15 Alternative Prison Placement to explore the feasibility of
16 alternatives to sending prisoners to the mainland, including the
17 feasibility of developing community-based alternatives and work
18 camps; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a list
21 of alternative community placements and work camps within the
22 State of Hawaii, including consideration of a site on the island
23 of Kaho'olawe, where inmates could stay onsite for work camps or
24 work projects; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
27 representatives of the following entities:

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29 (1) The Department of Public Safety;
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31 (2) The Department of Human Services;
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33 (3) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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35 (4) Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission;
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37 (5) The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana; and
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39 (6) Any other vested stakeholder these entities see fit;
40 and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
43 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature at least



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2009 that includes:

- 3
4 (1) A description of present community-based and work camp
5 settings in the State;
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7 (2) Criteria for the programs to ensure that program
8 objectives are met;
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10 (3) The number of Hawaii prisoners presently in community-
11 based and work camps;
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13 (4) Issues related to the expansion of effective programs
14 across the State to enable and prepare for the return
15 of Hawaii prisoners from the mainland;
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17 (5) Consideration of additional sites for community-based
18 sites and work camps, including having a work camp on
19 the island of Kaho'olawe;
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21 (6) Recommendations and work plan; and
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23 (7) Other inclusions as needed; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public
27 Safety, the Director of Human Resources Development, the
28 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
29 Affairs, the Chairperson of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
30 Commission, and the Chairperson of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.
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