
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS, AS EMBODIED BY THE PROPOSED PILOT BIG ISLAND JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent
2 Resolution No. 250 (2006) requesting the Hawaii County Office of
3 the Prosecuting Attorney to conduct a study, based upon
4 available information, on the feasibility of establishing
5 receiving homes in East and West Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 250 (2006)
8 requested the Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
9 to identify and examine each of the following areas relating to
10 juvenile justice:
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- 12 (1) Available data and rationale regarding the current
13 processes used in handling juveniles;
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- 15 (2) Feasibility of a single point of entry for youth into
16 the juvenile justice or social service system;
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- 18 (3) Development of a system-wide screening and assessment
19 instrument to be used when the youth first enters the
20 juvenile justice or social service system;
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- 22 (4) Existing federal and state laws and local and agency
23 rules relating to confidentiality, privacy, and
24 privilege and their impact on interagency information
25 sharing;
26
- 27 (5) Existing regulatory and licensing requirements for
28 youth care providers, facilities, and services and
29 their effect on establishing receiving facilities;
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(6) Development of a system of interagency information sharing to reduce service redundancy; and

(7) Existing programs and resources and those that need to be developed to prevent or reduce gaps in service; and

WHEREAS, in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 250 (2006), the Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney issued a *Report on the Feasibility of Establishing Receiving Homes in East and West Hawaii County*, that recommended the creation of a pilot Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center in Pahoa, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center would initially serve about forty youths per month at a pilot project in Pahoa with future sites proposed for Naalehu, Waimea, Kailua, and Hilo on the island of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center would provide a critically needed single point of entry for intake, assessment, and case management of delinquent and at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of the Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center would be as follows:

(1) For law enforcement:

(A) Community-based central receiving facility eliminates confusion about juvenile dispositions;

(B) Promotes public safety by freeing up police to return to other duties;

(C) Supports police in that juveniles are being immediately and effectively accountable for delinquent behavior; and

(D) Reduces expenditure of time associated with juvenile processing and additional police cost;

(2) For the courts and probation:



- 1 (A) Assists by compiling background information and
2 conducting early screening and assessments to
3 help guide decision-makers; and
4
- 5 (B) Provides judges with an opportunity for earlier
6 assessment and referral to community-based
7 service;
8
- 9 (3) For youth-serving agencies and programs:
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- 11 (A) Fosters cooperation and communication;
12
- 13 (B) Reduces information redundancy, freeing up
14 workers for more direct service contacts and
15 reducing agency costs;
16
- 17 (C) Database of information about programs and
18 placements and their availability accelerates
19 treatment referrals;
20
- 21 (D) Reduces fragmentation and gaps in service
22 delivery; and
23
- 24 (E) Multi-disciplinary approach addresses "the whole
25 child";
26
- 27 (4) For youth and families:
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- 29 (A) Provides a caring, safe, and secure environment;
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- 31 (B) Provides a seamless array of services due to the
32 multidisciplinary approach;
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- 34 (C) Improves access to programs and services;
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- 36 (D) Screening and assessment is community-based; and
37
- 38 (E) Justice is restorative and immediate; and
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- 40 (5) For the public:
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- 42 (A) Reduces juvenile justice and police costs; and
43
- 44 (B) Enhances juvenile accountability; and




1
 2 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 844 called for the appropriation of
 3 \$1,600,000 to fund a pilot Big Island Juvenile Intake and
 4 Assessment Center in Pahoia, an appropriation that could not be
 5 funded in the present economic climate; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of juvenile justice in the
 8 State of Hawaii that the concept of a juvenile intake and
 9 assessment center be reaffirmed and promoted; now, therefore,

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 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 13 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature strongly
 14 supports the concept of establishing a system of juvenile intake
 15 and assessment centers, as embodied by the proposed pilot Big
 16 Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center, throughout the
 17 State; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 21 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the
 22 Superintendent of Education, the Chief Justice and the
 23 Administrative Director of the Courts, and the Prosecuting
 24 Attorney of the County of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 16 2009

