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# 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 where juveniles in the  
6 juvenile justice system may receive comprehensive multi-  
7 disciplinary screening and risk and needs assessment; and  
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9           WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 250 (2006)  
10 requested the Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney  
11 to identify and examine each of the following areas relating to  
12 juvenile justice:  
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- 14           (1) Available data and rationale regarding the current  
15 processes used in handling juveniles;  
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- 17           (2) Feasibility of a single point of entry for youth into  
18 the juvenile justice or social service system;  
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- 20           (3) Development of a system-wide screening and assessment  
21 instrument to be used when the youth first enters the  
22 juvenile justice or social service system;  
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- 24           (4) Existing federal and state laws and local and agency  
25 rules relating to confidentiality, privacy, and  
26 privilege and their impact on interagency information  
27 sharing;  
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- 29           (5) Existing regulatory and licensing requirements for  
30 youth care providers, facilities, and services and  
31 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) The community-based central receiving facility would eliminate confusion about juvenile dispositions;

(B) The public safety would be promoted by freeing up police to return to other duties;

(C) The police would be supported in that juveniles would be immediately and effectively accountable for delinquent behavior; and

(D) The expenditure of time associated with juvenile processing and additional police cost would be reduced;

- 1 (2) For the courts and probation:
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  - 3 (A) Compiling background information and conducting
  - 4 early screening and assessments to help guide
  - 5 decision-makers would be facilitated; and
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  - 7 (B) Judges would be provided with an opportunity for
  - 8 earlier assessment and referral to community-
  - 9 based service;
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- 11 (3) For youth-serving agencies and programs:
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  - 13 (A) Cooperation and communication would be fostered;
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  - 15 (B) Information redundancy would be reduced freeing
  - 16 up workers for more direct service contacts and
  - 17 reducing agency costs;
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  - 19 (C) Treatment referrals would be accelerated by
  - 20 access to a database of information about
  - 21 programs and placements and their availability;
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  - 23 (D) Fragmentation and gaps in service delivery would
  - 24 be reduced; and
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  - 26 (E) "The whole child" would be addressed by a
  - 27 multi-disciplinary approach;
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- 29 (4) For youth and families:
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  - 31 (A) A caring, safe, and secure environment would be
  - 32 provided;
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  - 34 (B) A seamless array of services due to the
  - 35 multidisciplinary approach would be provided;
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  - 37 (C) Access to programs and services would be
  - 38 provided;
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  - 40 (D) Screening and assessment would be community-
  - 41 based; and
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  - 43 (E) Justice would be restorative and immediate; and
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1 (5) For the public:  
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3 (A) Juvenile justice and police costs would be  
4 reduced; and  
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6 (B) Juvenile accountability would be enhanced; and  
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8 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 844 (2009) called for the  
9 appropriation of \$1,600,000 to fund a pilot Big Island Juvenile  
10 Intake and Assessment Center in Pahoehoe, an appropriation that  
11 could not be funded in the present economic climate; and  
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13 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of juvenile justice in the  
14 State of Hawaii that the concept of a juvenile intake and  
15 assessment center be reaffirmed and promoted; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature strongly  
20 support the concept of establishing a system of juvenile intake  
21 and assessment centers, as embodied by the proposed pilot Big  
22 Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center, throughout the  
23 State; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
27 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the  
28 Superintendent of Education, the Chief Justice and the  
29 Administrative Director of the Courts, and the Prosecuting  
30 Attorney of the County of Hawaii.