
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO EXAMINE THE RATIONALE AND
MANAGEMENT OF THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY.

1 WHEREAS, parole provides an opportunity for a convicted
2 felon to serve a portion of his or her sentence in the community
3 as long as the offender abides by certain conditions; and
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5 WHEREAS, the concept of parole has been a controversial one
6 ever since it was effectuated in Hawaii; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Paroling Authority is an agency
9 administratively attached to the Department of Public Safety and
10 is run by a three-person board, with a full-time chairperson and
11 two part-time members; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Paroling Authority is responsible for
14 setting the minimum terms that convicted offenders must serve
15 before being considered for release on parole if those minimum
16 terms have not been set by the courts; and
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18 WHEREAS, the decisions made by the Hawaii Paroling
19 Authority in particular cases have occasionally raised questions
20 about the rationale for the agency's existence or its
21 effectiveness; and
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23 WHEREAS, the decisions made by the Hawaii Paroling
24 Authority in releasing offenders into the community
25 significantly affect the safety and welfare of the public; now,
26 therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
31 requested to examine the rationale for the creation of the
32 Hawaii Paroling Authority and audit the management and programs
33 of the agency; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the examination and audit include, at a minimum:

- (1) The problems that the establishment of the Hawaii Paroling Authority were intended to solve;
- (2) The objectives that the legislation establishing the Hawaii Paroling Authority sought to achieve;
- (3) An estimate of how successfully those objectives have been met;
- (4) A comparison with other jurisdictions' approach to the same problems;
- (5) The efficacy of the board of the Hawaii Paroling Authority; and
- (6) The effectiveness and accountability with which staff of the Hawaii Paroling Authority are managed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and the Auditor.