

MAR 18 2009

SENATE 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 (HPA) 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, HPA is responsible for setting the minimum terms
14 that convicted offenders must serve before being considered for
15 release on parole if those minimum terms have not been set by
16 the courts; and
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18 WHEREAS, the decisions made by HPA in particular cases have
19 occasionally raised questions about the rationale for the
20 agency's existence or its effectiveness; and
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22 WHEREAS, the decisions made by HPA in releasing offenders
23 into the community significantly affect the safety and welfare
24 of the public; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
28 that the Auditor is requested to examine the rationale for the
29 creation of HPA and audit the management and programs of the
30 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 HPA were intended to solve;
- (2) The objectives that the legislation establishing HPA 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 HPA; and
- (6) The effectiveness and accountability with which staff of HPA are managed;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor submit a report of findings and recommendations at least 20 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the chair of HPA, and the Auditor.

OFFERED BY: Will Egan