
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a
2 disproportionately high rate of arrest and incarceration among
3 young men and women of Hawaiian ancestry. Many of these
4 individuals are under forty years of age and should be provided
5 rehabilitation opportunities.

6 A promising approach to reducing recidivism and helping
7 inmates make the successful transition from prison to the
8 community is cognitive restructuring and transition programs
9 provided at correctional facilities. Such programs involve
10 self-examination of an inmate's belief system, criminal
11 addictive cycle, attitudes and thinking patterns, and
12 development of relapse prevention plans for future situations.
13 The program assists offenders in restructuring their thought
14 processes and teaches cognitive skills that help with basic
15 decision-making and problem-solving. The goal of cognitive
16 restructuring is to guide offenders to consciously examine their
17 own thoughts by engaging in processes that develop self-control,
18 thus making them responsible for, and in charge of, their



1 actions no matter how stressful the situation. When combined
2 with strategies that help Hawaiian inmates get back in touch
3 with the values of their culture, cognitive rehabilitation can
4 help break the vicious cycle of crime and punishment, as
5 knowledge of Hawaiian traditions and cultural values have helped
6 many cope with social challenges.

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that
8 reentry/reintegration programs within Hawaii's correctional
9 facilities offer cognitive behavioral therapy with native
10 Hawaiian holistic interventions to address domestic violence,
11 addictions, self mastery through identity, and community
12 connections to promote the successful transition from
13 incarceration to the community.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The department of public safety shall
15 ensure that reentry/reintegration programs within Hawaii's
16 correctional facilities offer cognitive behavioral therapy with
17 native Hawaiian holistic interventions to address domestic
18 violence, addictions, self mastery through identity, and
19 community connections to promote the successful transition from
20 incarceration to the community.



1 (b) The department of public safety shall implement this
2 Act with all new contracts for reentry/reintegration programs
3 upon approval of this Act.

4 (c) The department of public safety shall submit an annual
5 report to the legislature on these programs in Hawaii's
6 correctional facilities not later than twenty days prior to the
7 convening of each regular session, beginning with the regular
8 session of 2010.

9 The annual report shall include, but not be limited to:

- 10 (1) Descriptions of the various programs;
- 11 (2) Criteria for access/entry to the programs;
- 12 (3) The number of native Hawaiians who participated in the
13 program;
- 14 (4) The number of non-Hawaiians who participated in the
15 program;
- 16 (5) The number of native Hawaiians who completed the
17 program;
- 18 (6) The number of non-Hawaiians who completed the program;
- 19 (7) The number of participants paroled/"maxed out";
- 20 (8) Recidivism after three months; six months; nine
21 months; one year; and
- 22 (9) Successes and challenges in administering the program.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Corrections; Rehabilitation; Native Hawaiians

Description:

Requires the department of public safety to establish a reintegration pilot program that combines cognitive behavioral theory with native Hawaiian holistic interventions that address domestic violence, addictions, self mastery through identity, and community connections for successful transitions back into the community.

