
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the most recent
2 information on the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco reveal a
3 disturbing rise in the use of these substances among the native
4 Hawaiian population, and in particular, by native Hawaiian
5 youth. In fact, among high school students in the eighth and
6 tenth grades, native Hawaiian children rank highest among all
7 ethnic groups in the use of these substances.

8 The legislature further finds that multiple health and
9 social problems, including poverty, crime, homelessness, and
10 family violence, are linked to an increased use of both legal
11 and illegal substances. The department of human services has
12 noted that up to eighty-five per cent of adults involved in the
13 child protective services system have serious substance abuse
14 problems. Further, parents and adult caregivers who are
15 substance abusers may also place their children at risk for
16 substance abuse.

17 The greatest potential to stem the tide of this most
18 horrific situation lies in culturally based substance abuse



1 treatment and intervention programs that take a holistic
2 approach based upon cultural identity, spirituality, and
3 strength to get to the core--the why--of substance abuse, and to
4 heal from within.

5 The legislature finds that a pu`uhonua, or wellness center,
6 would be based on the Hawaiian paradigms of ho`oponopono (to
7 make right) and aloha `aina (caring for the land). Ho`oponopono
8 is a focused approach to problem solving and a way to restore
9 and maintain a person's relationships with family and community.
10 Aloha `aina, with its core of sustainable living, connects a
11 person to the world around the person.

12 The legislature further finds that the site formerly used
13 as the Kulani minimum security prison in East Hawaii would be an
14 ideal site for such a wellness center. It is a place of deep
15 spirituality for the Hawaiian people; and, pragmatically, it has
16 the infrastructure and historical precedence for use in
17 sustainable living.

18 SECTION 2. The department of public safety, working with
19 Ohana Ho`opakele and other restorative justice groups, is
20 directed to prepare a plan for the creation of a pu`uhonua, or
21 wellness center, on lands owned or controlled by the State,



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1 giving preference to the site formerly used as the Kulani
2 correctional facility on the island of Hawaii.

3 The department of public safety shall report on its
4 findings and recommendations, including any budget requests
5 necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act, to the
6 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 the regular session of 2011.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Public Lands; Kulani Correctional Facility

Description:

Requires the department of public safety to plan for a model wellness center to be built in East Hawaii. Report to legislature in 2011.

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