
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT A MEDICAL RELEASE PROGRAM AND PROVIDE INFORMATION
RELATED TO DEATHS AT HAWAII, CONTRACT, AND INTERSTATE
COMPACT INMATE FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
2 reports that a growing number of states are releasing older,
3 chronically ill offenders into the community; and
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5 WHEREAS, a National Conference of State Legislatures report
6 states that studies show that geriatric inmates, who develop an
7 average of three chronic illnesses while imprisoned, cost the
8 states an average \$70,000 per year, which is two to three times
9 the cost of imprisoning a younger inmate; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety's budget increased
12 75.5 per cent from fiscal year 2000 to 2009; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety's budget for
15 contract prison beds, including those at the Federal Detention
16 Center and facilities of the Corrections Corporation of America
17 or other private prison vendors increased one hundred ninety-two
18 per cent from fiscal year 2000 to 2009; and
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20 WHEREAS, research documents that older inmates are unlikely
21 to reoffend and pose little to no risk to the community; and
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23 WHEREAS, while at least thirty-seven states have
24 implemented early release programs for geriatric, ill inmates,
25 none of them allow inmates who have been convicted of violent or
26 sexual offenses to participate; and
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28 WHEREAS, because state definitions of the age at which
29 prisoners are categorized as "geriatric" varies from fifty in



1 Ohio to sixty-five in New York, the exact number of older
2 prisoners is not known; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Public
7 Safety is requested to develop and implement a medical release
8 program; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
11 is requested to post information relating to the medical release
12 program on the Department's website, including the following:

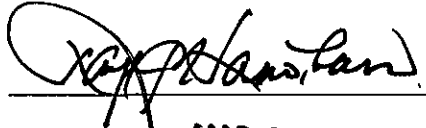
- 13
- 14 (1) The criteria for medical release;
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- 16 (2) Eligibility requirements for medical release;
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- 18 (3) Procedure for applying for a medical release; and
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- 20 (4) Average processing time for eligible applications; and
- 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
23 is requested to submit annual reports to the Legislature no
24 later than January 31 of each year regarding its medical release
25 program and post the reports on the Department's website, that
26 include information on inmate deaths as allowed by law,
27 including:

- 28
- 29 (1) The age and gender of deceased individuals;
- 30
- 31 (2) The facilities where the individuals were held; and
- 32
- 33 (3) Any medical information allowed to be released by law;
- 34 and
- 35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
38 Director of Public Safety, and the Chairperson and Administrator
39 of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 02 2010