
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE
PROBABLE IMPACT OF SENTENCING NONVIOLENT DRUG OFFENDERS TO
TREATMENT INSTEAD OF IMPRISONMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the Drug Court program has a limited number of
2 open slots available; and
3

4 WHEREAS, substance-involved individuals have come to
5 comprise a large portion of Hawaii's incarcerated population;
6 and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Institute's preliminary
9 classification report, commissioned by the Department of Public
10 Safety, reveals that 71.2 per cent of incarcerated women and
11 sixty-five per cent of incarcerated men are nonviolent
12 offenders; and
13

14 WHEREAS, these nonviolent offenders are projected to be
15 classified as "minimum" or "community custody", the least
16 restrictive custody levels; and
17

18 WHEREAS, incarceration is the most expensive sanction,
19 ranging in cost from \$118 to \$139 per day to incarcerate an
20 individual in a Hawaii jail or prison; and
21

22 WHEREAS, studies show that treatment is more effective than
23 incarceration; and
24

25 WHEREAS, for every \$1 spent on drug treatment, \$18 is saved
26 in the community (Aos, Steve, Polly Phipps, Robert Barnoski, and
27 Roxanne Lieb. 2001. *The Comparative Costs and Benefits of*
28 *Programs to Reduce Crime, Version 4.0.* Olympia: Washington
29 State Institute for Public Policy.); and
30



1 WHEREAS, the prosecutor's office has testified that seventy
2 per cent of the crimes committed in Honolulu were motivated by
3 drugs; and
4

5 WHEREAS, studies show that incentives are more effective
6 than sanctions when addressing the issues associated with drug
7 offenders; now, therefore,
8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
11 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is requested
12 to report to the Legislature on the probable impact of
13 sentencing nonviolent drug offenders to an alternative program
14 of treatment instead of imprisonment; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
17 focus the study on offenders being sentenced for an offense
18 involving the possession of a dangerous, harmful, or detrimental
19 drug or marijuana under part IV of chapter 712, Hawaii Revised
20 Statutes, or an offense involving the use of, or possession with
21 intent to use, drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or
22 otherwise introduce a controlled substance into the human body,
23 in violation of chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
26 additionally focus the study on cases where nonviolent drug
27 offenders have been assessed by a certified substance abuse
28 counselor to be in need of substance abuse treatment due to
29 dependency or abuse under the applicable Diagnostic and
30 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and Addiction Severity
31 Index, and where the court has determined that the offense for
32 which the offender is being sentenced is related to the
33 offender's substance abuse dependency or addiction; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
36 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
37 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
38 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chief
42 Justice of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the Chief of
43 Police of each county, the Prosecuting Attorney of each county,



H.C.R. NO. 149

1 the state Public Defender, and the federal Public Defender for
2 the District of Hawaii.
3
4
5

OFFERED BY:



MAR 04 2010

