
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO RETURN HAWAII
PRISONERS HELD IN MAINLAND FACILITIES AND TO CONSTRUCT A
NEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AT PANAEWA NEAR HILO.

1 WHEREAS, according to a 2010 report of the Office of
2 Hawaiian Affairs, entitled "The Disparate Treatment of Native
3 Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System", Native Hawaiians
4 receive disparate treatment in the criminal justice system, and
5 there is an overwhelming number of Native Hawaiian men and women
6 incarcerated in prison in Hawai'i and on the Mainland; and
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8 WHEREAS, incarceration affects not only an individual
9 person, but everything and everyone connected to them; families
10 are torn apart, children are left without their parents, and
11 whole communities are dismantled; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians make up twenty-four percent of
14 the general population of Hawai'i, but twenty-seven percent of
15 all arrests, thirty-three percent of people in pretrial
16 detention, twenty-nine percent of people sentenced to probation,
17 thirty-six percent admitted to prison in 2009, thirty-nine
18 percent of the incarcerated population, thirty-nine percent of
19 releases on parole, and forty-one percent of parole revocations;
20 and
21

22 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians receive longer prison sentences
23 than most other racial or ethnic groups and Native Hawaiians
24 make up the highest percentage of people incarcerated in
25 mainland facilities; and
26

27 WHEREAS, incarceration is particularly traumatic for Native
28 Hawaiians, especially when imprisonment is on the Mainland; and
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30 WHEREAS, for Native Hawaiians, the impact of trauma is
31 particularly salient because of strong connections to family,
32 the land, and community; and
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34 WHEREAS, imprisoning people from Hawai'i on the Mainland
35 exacerbates the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice



1 system on Native Hawaiians because they are cut off from
2 supportive communities and families that give them a reason to
3 exit prison as soon as possible; even the absence of familiar
4 surroundings and changes in the weather are traumatizing; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that returning
7 incarcerated persons, particularly Native Hawaiians, from the
8 mainland is in the best interest of the State as well as the
9 inmates themselves; and
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11 WHEREAS, a problem for any plan to return incarcerated
12 persons from the Mainland is the lack of correctional facilities
13 to house those returning inmates; and
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15 WHEREAS, there is land under the jurisdiction of the
16 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands that is ideal to construct a
17 new correctional facility at Panaewa, near Hilo on the Big
18 Island; now, therefore,
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2011, that the Department of Public Safety is requested to
23 return Hawaii prisoners held in Mainland facilities; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
26 construct a new correctional facility at Panaewa near Hilo on
27 the Big Island; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
30 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and University of Hawaii
31 Center on the Family collaborate with and assist, as
32 appropriate, the Department of Public Safety in making plans to
33 return Hawaii inmates from the Mainland and in planning for the
34 construction of a new correctional facility at Panaewa; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
37 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
38 convening of the Regular Session of 2012 on its progress toward
39 bringing home Hawaii inmates from the Mainland and constructing
40 a new correctional facility at Panaewa; and
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety;
44 Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;



1 Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission; and Center on the
2 Family at the University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

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