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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS FOR ITS STUDY ON THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL-JUSTICE SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, in the Regular Session of 2009, the Legislature  
2 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 27, H.D. 1, requesting  
3 that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs contract with a nationally  
4 respected and objective consulting firm to conduct a study of  
5 disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in Hawaii's criminal-  
6 justice system; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, in conducting the study, the Office of Hawaiian  
9 Affairs forged collaborative research partnerships with the  
10 Justice Policy Institute of Washington, D.C.; Georgetown  
11 University; and the University of Hawaii at Manoa's William S.  
12 Richardson School of Law, Department of Urban and Regional  
13 Planning, and Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work; and

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15           WHEREAS, the study demonstrated groundbreaking research and  
16 analysis, using both quantitative and qualitative methods and  
17 including the voices of Native Hawaiians about the criminal-  
18 justice system and its effect on their lives; and

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20           WHEREAS, the study employed community-based participatory  
21 methods with guidance and support through an advisory council  
22 comprising Native Hawaiian clinicians and practitioners from  
23 community organizations, such as Alu Like, Inc.; Queen  
24 Liliuokalani Children's Center; and the Community Alliance on  
25 Prisons; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, the study found, among other disparities, that  
28 after controlling for age, gender, and severity of charge,  
29 Native Hawaiians are sentenced to more days in prison, and  
30 receive longer probation, than most other ethnic groups; and



1 WHEREAS, the study also found that the disproportionate  
2 impact of the criminal-justice system on Native Hawaiians  
3 accumulates at each stage of the system; and  
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5 WHEREAS, following its release by the Office of Hawaiian  
6 Affairs in September 2010, the study report, titled "The  
7 Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice  
8 System," has been widely noted and referenced in Hawaii and  
9 across the nation, contributing significantly to a greater  
10 understanding of the impact of the criminal-justice system on  
11 individuals of all ethnic groups and on society at large; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the report contained constructive recommendations  
14 to reduce the unfair impact of the criminal-justice system on  
15 Native Hawaiians, including:  
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- 17 (1) Reforming the criminal-justice system in Hawaii  
18 to embrace the cultural values of Native  
19 Hawaiians;
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- 21 (2) Establishing a task force to review the findings  
22 and recommendations of the report; and  
23
- 24 (3) Concentrating efforts to reduce the punitive  
25 aspects of the criminal-justice system;
- 26

27 and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the report is imaginatively and artistically  
30 presented, with a remarkable mix of artwork, text, and  
31 statistics that lend it cultural, historical, and methodological  
32 depth and enhance its readability; now, therefore,  
33


34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
36 of 2011, that this body hereby recognizes and commends the  
37 Office of Hawaiian Affairs for its study on the disparate  
38 treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal-justice system;  
39 and



# H.R. NO. 260

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY:



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MAR 16 2011

