

JAN 21 2011

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENDERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, during the past  
2 decade, many states have relied on early release programs as a  
3 way to reduce prison overcrowding and relieve pressure on  
4 correctional budgets. During that time, a number of studies  
5 have examined the relationship between early release and the  
6 rate of recidivism. Researchers have concluded that early  
7 release had no adverse impact on overall recidivism. Currently,  
8 the director of public safety may grant furloughs to felons and  
9 misdemeanants with a minimum or lower security classification on  
10 a variety of conditions. This Act will permit the director to  
11 release suitable misdemeanants outright after they have served  
12 two-thirds of the term imposed by the court.

13           The purpose of this Act is to give the State an additional  
14 tool to reduce costs associated with the operation of its  
15 correctional system.

16           SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

SB HMS 2011-1218



1           "§353- Early release for misdemeanants. (a) Upon  
2 reasonable belief that a propensity to commit further crimes  
3 does not exist, the director may release a committed person  
4 sentenced for a misdemeanor offense; provided that the committed  
5 person shall serve at least two-thirds of the maximum sentence  
6 imposed by the court under section 706-663."

7           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011;  
9 provided that section 2 of this Act shall be repealed on June  
10 30, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Will Eyo  
Michelle Sideri



**Report Title:**

Misdemeanor Offenses; Early Release

**Description:**

Allows the Department of Public Safety to release a qualifying committed person serving a misdemeanor sentence if the person has served at least two-thirds of the sentence imposed by the court.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

