

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO DETERMINE THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN EARNED-TIME PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, at least thirty-one correctional jurisdictions use
2 an incentive system that rewards inmates for positive behavior
3 while incarcerated; and

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5 WHEREAS, these incentive systems reward inmates with
6 "earned-time credits"; and

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8 WHEREAS, these credits are earned when the inmate
9 participates in prison programs or activities including but not
10 limited to education, substance abuse treatment, or vocational
11 training; and

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13 WHEREAS, earned-time credits are a proven model that offers
14 selected inmates a shortened prison stay if they complete
15 educational, vocational, or rehabilitation programs that boost
16 their chances of successful reentry into the community and the
17 labor market; and

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19 WHEREAS, the opportunity to earn sentence credits provides
20 a significant incentive to prisoners who currently are penalized
21 for misconduct but rarely rewarded for positive efforts; and

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23 WHEREAS, awarding earned-time credits is a common
24 correctional practice nationally; and

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26 WHEREAS, there is no evidence that permitting earned-time
27 credits presents a risk to public safety; and

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29 WHEREAS, permitting earned-time credits does not require
30 the release of any particular prisoner, make institutional
31 management more difficult, or interfere with the discretion of
32 the parole board; and



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2 WHEREAS, earned-time credits would provide the Department
3 of Public Safety with a useful tool for managing institutional
4 behavior and promoting participation in rehabilitative programs;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, earned-time credits could significantly reduce the
8 prison population, reduce the population of Hawaii inmates
9 serving sentences on the United States mainland, and save
10 taxpayers money; and
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12 WHEREAS, the rehabilitation of inmates is an important step
13 in the process of enabling inmates to successfully reenter the
14 community; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has testified that
17 more than thirty per cent of the men incarcerated on the United
18 States mainland are classified as community custody; and
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20 WHEREAS, a report released by the National Conference of
21 State Legislatures in July 2009 stated that earned time helps
22 states reduce the corrections budget burden and allows funds
23 saved to be invested in programs that reduce recidivism and help
24 build safe communities; and
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26 WHEREAS, instituting an earned-time credit program can
27 accomplish the goals of bringing those incarcerated on the
28 United States mainland back home, saving money by reinvesting
29 correctional dollars from incarceration to community programs,
30 and keeping local money circulating in the local economy; now,
31 therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
36 Public Safety is requested to determine the feasibility of
37 establishing an early parole eligibility program for Hawaii
38 inmates incarcerated in Hawaii and on the mainland based upon a
39 study of earned-time credit programs established under the laws
40 of other jurisdictions; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
43 is requested to incorporate analysis and assessment of the



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1 appropriate criteria to be used for an earned-time program for
2 Hawaii inmates incarcerated in Hawaii and on the mainland; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
5 is requested to report its findings and recommendations,
6 including any proposed legislation, regarding earned-time
7 programs to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to
8 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Governor, the Director
12 of Public Safety, the Chair of Hawaii Paroling Authority, the
13 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public
15 Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs and the
16 Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Safety
17 and Military Affairs.
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