
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO RETURN HAWAII PRISONERS HELD IN MAINLAND FACILITIES AND TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PRISON, RE-ENTRY CENTER, OR OTHER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ON THE BIG ISLAND.

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 Hawaii 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
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13 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians make up twenty-four percent of
14 the general population of Hawaii, 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 of people admitted to prison in 2009,
18 thirty-nine percent of the incarcerated population, thirty-nine
19 percent of releases on parole, and forty-one percent of parole
20 revocations; and
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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
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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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1 WHEREAS, imprisoning people from Hawaii on the mainland
2 exacerbates the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice
3 system on Native Hawaiians because they are cut off from
4 supportive communities and families that give them a reason to
5 exit prison as soon as possible; even the absence of familiar
6 surroundings and changes in the weather are traumatizing; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that returning
9 incarcerated persons, particularly Native Hawaiians, from the
10 mainland is in the best interest of the State as well as the
11 inmates themselves; and
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13 WHEREAS, a problem for any plan to return incarcerated
14 persons from the mainland is the lack of correctional facilities
15 in Hawaii to house those returning inmates; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
19 that the Department of Public Safety is requested to return
20 Hawaii prisoners held in mainland facilities; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
23 consider construction of a new prison, re-entry center, or other
24 correctional facility on the Big Island; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
27 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and University of Hawaii
28 Center on the Family collaborate with and assist, as
29 appropriate, the Department of Public Safety in making plans to
30 return Hawaii inmates from the mainland and in planning for the
31 construction of a new prison, re-entry center, or other
32 correctional facility on the Big Island; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
35 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2012 on its progress toward
37 bringing home Hawaii inmates from the mainland and constructing
38 a new prison, re-entry center, or other correctional facility on
39 the Big Island; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety,
43 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.

