
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the most recent
2 information on the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco reveals a
3 disturbing rise in the use of these substances among the native
4 Hawaiian population. Many studies conducted both nationally and
5 statewide show native Hawaiians to be at particularly high risk
6 for substance abuse. Among students in the eighth and tenth
7 grades, native Hawaiian children rank highest among all ethnic
8 groups in the use of these substances. The studies also show
9 that substance abuse starts at an early age, and if not
10 addressed:

11 (1) Leads to more serious offenses, which erode family
12 structures spiritually, psychologically, socially, and
13 economically;

14 (2) Creates many health hazards and problems for and with
15 the individual; and

16 (3) Leads to other serious problems, such as poverty,
17 homelessness, and a growing dependence on both legal
18 and illegal drugs that in turn may lead to child



1 abuse, family abuse, sexual abuse, and other serious
2 life-threatening crimes.

3 The legislature finds that a pu'uhonua, or wellness center,
4 based on Hawaiian cultural practice will help the native
5 Hawaiian community and the community at-large. Unquestionably,
6 many high risk individuals need to be cared for in a much more
7 sensitive intervention program that will address solutions to
8 alleviate their problems. The greatest potential to stem the
9 tide of this horrific situation lies in the creation of a
10 pu'uhonua that comprises a culturally-based substance abuse
11 treatment and intervention program that takes a holistic
12 approach, based on cultural identity and strength to get to the
13 core, the why, of substance abuse. The cultural practices of
14 pule, ho'oponopono, aloha 'aina, mahi'ai, la'au lapa'au, and aloha
15 will help create a sensitive setting. These cultural practices
16 have been successful in the past, possessing the optimal
17 potential to heal an individual. A culturally-based pu'uhonua
18 will restore and maintain a better atmosphere and relationship
19 among family, friends, community, and society.

20 The legislature further finds that the site formerly used
21 as the Kulani correctional facility in east Hawaii would be an
22 ideal site for such a wellness center. It is a place of deep



1 spirituality for the Hawaiian people and, pragmatically, it has
2 the infrastructure and historical precedent for use in
3 sustainable living. However, there may be other locations that
4 can serve as options in determining a viable and ideal site for
5 such a wellness center.

6 The purpose of this Act is to reduce recidivism, prevent
7 crime, and ensure long-term positive change by developing a plan
8 to create a wellness center that reestablishes highly-recognized
9 native Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the overall well-
10 being of individuals, families, and the native Hawaiian
11 community.

12 SECTION 2. The department of public safety, working with
13 'Ohana Ho'opakele and other restorative justice groups, is
14 directed to prepare a plan for the creation of a pu'uhonua, or
15 wellness center, on lands owned or controlled by the State,
16 giving preference to the site formerly used as the Kulani
17 correctional facility on the island of Hawaii; provided that the
18 department of public safety may also consider site options on
19 all islands in determining a viable and ideal location for the
20 wellness center; provided further that the department of public
21 safety shall seek the input of the department of human services,
22 department of health, department of Hawaiian home lands, and



1 office of Hawaiian affairs in its planning and in determining a
2 site for the wellness center.

3 The department of public safety shall submit a report to
4 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
5 of the regular session of 2013 on its findings and
6 recommendations, including any budget requests necessary to
7 achieve the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Public Lands; Kulani Correctional Facility

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a plan to create a wellness center that re-establishes highly recognized native Hawaiian cultural practices to restore the overall well-being of individuals, families, and the native Hawaiian community. Requires the Department of Public Safety to work with various groups and state agencies in its planning and in determining a site for the wellness center. Allows the Department of Public Safety to consider other site options on all islands in determining a viable and ideal location for the wellness center. Requires the Department of Public Safety to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2013. (HB2848 HD1)

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