
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY TO THOROUGHLY CONSIDER
GRANTING PAROLE TO CLASS A, CLASS B, AND CLASS C FELONS
BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR MAXIMUM TERMS.

1 WHEREAS, in 2006, of the 121 individuals who served their
2 maximum sentence, fifteen (twelve percent) were considered high
3 risk for committing a new crime or parole violation; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2011, of the 247 individuals who served their
6 maximum sentence, 101 (forty-one percent) were considered high
7 risk for committing a new crime or parole violation; and
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9 WHEREAS, the 2011 figure did not include parole violators,
10 including twenty-seven high-risk parolees, who maxed out that
11 year; and
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13 WHEREAS, the number of high-risk Hawaii inmates who
14 completed their terms and were released without any transition
15 was actually 128; and
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17 WHEREAS, data from the Interagency Council on Intermediate
18 Sanctions 2008 Cohort - 2011 Recidivism Update show the
19 recidivism rate for probationers at 48.5 percent, the recidivism
20 rate for parolees at 48.4 percent, and the recidivism rate for
21 those who serve their maximum term and are released with no
22 supervision and support at 69.3 percent; and
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24 WHEREAS, the results of many studies point to the potential
25 psychological harm that long term incarceration can cause; and
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27 WHEREAS, these findings are critical to policy makers who
28 must decide how best to deal with long term inmates so that when
29 they are released, they can return to the community as
30 productive, law abiding citizens; and
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1 WHEREAS, more than 100 leading national and state crime
2 victim advocates and survivors have signed on to a statement of
3 guiding principles on sentencing, corrections, and public
4 safety; and
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6 WHEREAS, one of the seven principles speaks directly to the
7 issue of time served in prison: "While it is important for
8 offenders to receive just punishment, the *quantity* of time that
9 convicted offenders serve under any form of correctional
10 supervision must be balanced with the *quality* of evidence-based
11 assessment, treatment, programming and supervision they receive
12 that can change their criminal behavior and thinking and reduce
13 the likelihood that they will commit future crimes. For many
14 offenses and offenders, shorter prison terms are acceptable if
15 the resulting cost savings are reinvested in evidence-based
16 programs that reduce recidivism"; and
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18 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
19 convened a Sentencing and Corrections Work Group that included
20 legislators from many states, including Representative Faye
21 Hanohano from Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, the report, entitled "Principles of Effective
24 State Sentencing and Corrections Policy", states under Principle
25 3 that states should provide "appropriate levels of supervision
26 and services for all offenders as they reenter the community";
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, releasing individuals from prison directly into
30 the community is not in the best interest of public safety; now,
31 therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that in order to reduce
36 the rate of recidivism in Hawaii, the Hawaii Paroling Authority
37 is encouraged to thoroughly consider granting parole to
38 individuals serving Class A felonies on parole eighteen months
39 before the expiration of their maximum term; individuals serving
40 Class B felonies on parole twelve months before the expiration
41 of their maximum term; and individuals serving Class C felonies
42 on parole six months before the expiration of their maximum
43 term; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public
3 Safety; Hawaii Paroling Authority; Prosecuting Attorneys of the
4 City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and
5 Maui; Chair of the Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
6 Military Affairs Committee; and Chair of the House Public Safety
7 Committee.

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OFFERED BY:



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