
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT AN EARNED-TIME PROGRAM TO ALLOW INMATES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO EARN CREDIT TOWARD REDUCING THEIR MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.

1 WHEREAS, earned-time programs reduce the length of
2 incarceration for certain non-dangerous offenders while
3 maintaining public safety; and

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5 WHEREAS, earned-time programs can create an incentive for
6 motivated inmates to work, take part in rehabilitation, and
7 prepare for successful reintegration into the community; and

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9 WHEREAS, earned-time programs can reduce the corrections
10 budget burden by reducing recidivism; and

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12 WHEREAS, earned-time programs can also help build safe
13 communities; and

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15 WHEREAS, typically, earned-time programs enable eligible
16 inmates to earn credits for earned-time through education and
17 work activities; and

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19 WHEREAS, for example, in more than a dozen states, inmates
20 earn time off their sentences by:

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22 (1) Participating in or completing educational courses;
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24 (2) Working, including engaging in facility work
25 assignments, jobs with prison industries or work
26 crews, or working in disaster relief or conservation
27 projects;
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29 (3) Completing vocational programs;



1 (4) Participating in rehabilitative programs, including
2 substance abuse and mental health treatment; and
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4 (5) Performing meritorious service, such as preventing
5 escape, helping in emergency situations, and helping
6 to maintain the safety and security of the
7 institution; and
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9 WHEREAS, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency
10 recently published a literature review of studies on states'
11 accelerated release policies over a 23-year period, and of the
12 13 research reports reviewed, none found a statistically
13 significant increase in rates of recidivism for offenders who
14 obtained an accelerated release and a few studies instead found
15 a decrease in recidivism rates; and
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17 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
18 reported in 2011 that Hawaii was one of only seven states that
19 did not offer "good time" or earned-time credits; now,
20 therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
24 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Paroling
25 Authority, with the assistance of the Department of Public
26 Safety and Department of the Attorney General, is requested to
27 develop a plan to implement an earned-time program that allows
28 inmates under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public
29 Safety, whether housed in Hawaii or in contracted correctional
30 facilities on the mainland, to earn credit toward reducing their
31 minimum term of imprisonment if certain requirements are met;
32 and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the plan for the earned-
35 time program, an inmate shall become eligible for parole before
36 the expiration of the inmate's minimum term set by the Hawaii
37 Paroling Authority upon demonstrating progress toward
38 rehabilitation in each of the following categories to the extent
39 that such services are available at the person's correctional
40 facility:
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42 (1) Work, vocational, or occupational training and skills;
43 provided that a determination of progress shall
44 include consideration of factors such as attendance,



- 1 promptness, performance, cooperation, care of
- 2 materials, and safety;
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- 4 (2) Social adjustment, including skills such as group
- 5 living, housekeeping, personal hygiene, and
- 6 cooperation;
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- 8 (3) Counseling sessions and self-help groups;
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- 10 (4) Therapeutic and other similar departmental programs;
- 11 and
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- 13 (5) Education or literacy programs; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan for the earned-time
 16 program include an annual review by the Department of Public
 17 Safety of the records of each inmate committed to the custody of
 18 the Director of Public Safety for the purposes of the earned-
 19 time program and to determine whether to grant, withhold,
 20 withdraw, or restore an earned-time deduction from the inmate's
 21 minimum term of imprisonment; and

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 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Public Safety
 24 is urged to promptly notify the crime victim, as applicable, of
 25 any adjustment in the inmate's minimum term completion date; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Paroling Authority,
 28 with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety and
 29 Department of the Attorney General, submit to the Legislature a
 30 plan to implement the earned-time program no later than 20 days
 31 before the commencement of the Regular Session of 2014; and

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 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public
 35 Safety, Attorney General, and Administrator of the Hawaii
 36 Paroling Authority.

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OFFERED BY: 
 MAR 13 2013

