
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT A THREE-YEAR EARNED-TIME PILOT 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;
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- 31 (4) Participating in rehabilitative programs, including
32 substance abuse and mental health treatment; and



1 (5) Performing meritorious service, such as preventing
2 escape, helping in emergency situations, and helping
3 to maintain the safety and security of the
4 institution; and
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6 WHEREAS, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency
7 recently published a literature review of studies on states'
8 accelerated release policies over a 23-year period, and of the
9 13 research reports reviewed, none found a statistically
10 significant increase in rates of recidivism for offenders who
11 obtained an accelerated release and a few studies instead found
12 a decrease in recidivism rates; and
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14 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
15 reported in 2011 that Hawaii was one of only seven states that
16 did not offer "good time" or earned-time credits; now,
17 therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2013, that the Hawaii Paroling Authority, with the
22 assistance of the Department of Public Safety and Department of
23 the Attorney General, is requested to develop a plan to
24 implement a three-year earned-time pilot program that allows
25 inmates under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public
26 Safety, whether housed in Hawaii or in contracted correctional
27 facilities on the mainland, to earn credit toward reducing their
28 minimum term of imprisonment if certain requirements are met;
29 and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the plan for the earned-
32 time pilot program, an inmate shall become eligible for parole
33 before the expiration of the inmate's minimum term set by the
34 Hawaii Paroling Authority upon demonstrating progress toward
35 rehabilitation in each of the following categories to the extent
36 that such services are available at the person's correctional
37 facility:
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39 (1) Work, vocational, or occupational training and skills;
40 provided that a determination of progress shall
41 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
- 12
- 13 (5) Education or literacy programs; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the plan for the earned-
 16 time pilot program, the Hawaii Paroling Authority is requested
 17 to establish criteria for inmates who are ineligible for the
 18 earned-time pilot program; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public
 21 Safety, Department of the Attorney General, Hawaii Paroling
 22 Authority, and other involved parties are requested to develop
 23 structured guidelines that clearly establish that inmates have
 24 the opportunity to earn credits to reduce their minimum term of
 25 imprisonment, but they do not necessarily have a right to
 26 participate in this pilot program; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan for the earned-time
 29 pilot program include an annual review by the Department of
 30 Public Safety of the records of each inmate committed to the
 31 custody of the Director of Public Safety for the purposes of the
 32 earned-time pilot program and to determine whether to grant,
 33 withhold, withdraw, or restore an earned-time deduction from the
 34 inmate's minimum term of imprisonment; and

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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Paroling Authority,
2 with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety and
3 Department of the Attorney General, submit to the Legislature a
4 plan to implement the three-year earned-time pilot program no
5 later than 20 days before the commencement of the Regular
6 Session of 2014; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety,
10 Attorney General, and Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling
11 Authority.

