

MAR 13 2013

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO EXPAND COMMUNITY  
DRUG TREATMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR NONVIOLENT  
OFFENDERS AND MOVE LOW-RISK OFFENDERS INTO COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THEIR PATHWAYS TO  
INCARCERATION.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the crime victimization  
2 rate in Hawaii has declined from forty-eight percent in 1997 to  
3 30.2 percent in 2010; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Justice Reinvestment Initiative found that the  
6 jail population has increased by forty-eight percent in the  
7 following areas: (1) the pre-trial population increased from  
8 568 in 2006 to 1,233 in 2011 (one hundred seventeen percent) and  
9 (2) the sentenced population increased from 914 in 2006 to 958  
10 in 2011 (five percent); and

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12 WHEREAS, sixty-three percent of nonviolent pre-trial felons  
13 are low risk; and

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15 WHEREAS, only fourteen percent of incarcerated persons need  
16 prison-based programming, and

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18 WHEREAS, two-thirds of offenders are awaiting prison-based  
19 programming in order to be released on parole; and

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21 WHEREAS, almost one-half of all parole denials were low-  
22 risk inmates; and

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24 WHEREAS, one hundred forty-four individuals imprisoned for  
25 promoting a dangerous drug or prohibited acts related to drug  
26 paraphernalia were low risk; and

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28 WHEREAS, sixty percent of the felony probationers receiving  
29 sentences of thirty-seven months or more are low risk; and

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1 WHEREAS, eighty percent of the parole population is low  
2 risk; and

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4 WHEREAS, overcrowding in Hawaii's community correctional  
5 centers put low-risk, nonviolent offenders at risk of harm; and

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7 WHEREAS, this overcrowding places the State at great  
8 liability; and

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10 WHEREAS, programs that effectively assist low-risk  
11 offenders are critically needed to address the problems  
12 associated with reentry and the high rate of recidivism; and

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14 WHEREAS, research shows that community drug treatment  
15 programs can save from \$10 to \$18 for every \$1 spent; and

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17 WHEREAS, the costs of incarceration can be dramatically  
18 reduced through the implementation of programs and services that  
19 assist individuals with drug and mental health problems; now,  
20 therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that this body encourages  
25 the Department of Public Safety to expand community drug  
26 treatment and mental health programs for nonviolent offenders;  
27 and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety  
30 is encouraged to find creative ways to move low-risk offenders  
31 with substance abuse and mental health issues from incarceration  
32 into community programs that directly address their pathways to  
33 incarceration; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public  
37 Safety and Chairperson of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

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40 OFFERED BY:   
  