

MAR 12 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO
COLLABORATE ON REDUCING THE NECESSITY AND NUMBER OF TRIPS
BY PRISONERS TO COURTHOUSES FOR HEARINGS.

1 WHEREAS, transporting inmates and detainees from
2 correctional facilities to courtrooms requires the expenditure
3 of manpower and resources; and
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5 WHEREAS, courtrooms are not as secure as correctional
6 facilities; and
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8 WHEREAS, an inmate was brought to the State Circuit Court
9 building for a probation revocation hearing on October 31, 2012,
10 but escaped from custody at the Circuit Court building; and
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12 WHEREAS, the inmate remained at large until the next day;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, a pretrial detainee awaiting trial on a charge of
16 second-degree murder was brought to the State Circuit Court
17 building for a pretrial hearing on February 20, 2013, but
18 escaped from custody soon after arrival; and
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20 WHEREAS, the detainee remained at large for more than
21 eleven hours; and
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23 WHEREAS, the recapture of both escapees required a
24 considerable number of law enforcement officers to search for
25 and apprehend the escapees; and
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27 WHEREAS, the escapes sent surrounding areas into a panic,
28 including the lockdown of nearby schools; and
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30 WHEREAS, the technology exists for incarcerated persons to
31 participate in court hearings or proceedings remotely from
32 correctional facilities; and
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1 WHEREAS, remote participation in court proceedings by
2 incarcerated persons minimizes the possibility of escape, while
3 still protecting their rights; now, therefore,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
7 that this body requests that the Judiciary and the Department of
8 Public Safety collaborate to reduce the necessity and number of
9 prisoner trips to courthouses for hearings; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary and the
12 Department of Public Safety are requested to submit a joint
13 report on the results of this collaboration to the Legislature
14 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
15 Session of 2014; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawaii
19 Supreme Court and Director of Public Safety.
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OFFERED BY:

