
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Research has demonstrated that nonviolent, low-
2 risk drug offenders can be effectively and safely transitioned
3 from jail or prison to community status through the availability
4 of a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of evidence-based
5 treatment services. Strong empirical evidence has consistently
6 demonstrated that substance abuse treatment reduces crime and is
7 cost-effective, with research studies documenting savings of \$10
8 to \$18 for every \$1 spent. Through the use of evidence-based
9 practices, community drug treatment programs can effectively
10 break the costly cycle of offender drug use, crime, and
11 incarceration by significantly reducing recidivism. The goals
12 and benefits of such a comprehensive and coordinated continuum
13 of treatment services include:

14 (1) Reducing the prison population and the cost of
15 incarceration by decreasing recidivism among
16 nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders;

17 (2) Identifying a network of key resources necessary for
18 success; and



1 (3) Preserving public safety through careful initial
2 screening and continued monitoring of participants in
3 the project as they live in the community.

4 The purpose of this Act is to plan and implement a two-year
5 pilot project to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of providing
6 a coordinated system of reentry treatment and support services
7 to help nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders transition from jail
8 or prison back into the community.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
10 of public safety a pilot project to be known as the reentry
11 pilot project for nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders.

12 (b) There shall be up to one hundred participants in the
13 pilot project annually, from among male and female nonviolent,
14 low-risk drug offenders who are eligible for early release or
15 parole.

16 (c) The effectiveness of the pilot project shall be
17 evaluated. The evaluation shall include project participants'
18 status with respect to the following criteria:

- 19 (1) Record of arrest;
20 (2) Reincarceration;
21 (3) Substance abuse;
22 (4) Employment status;



1 (5) Compliance with the terms and conditions of release;

2 (6) Housing status; and

3 (7) The availability of a positive support group.

4 (d) The pilot project shall be based on evidence-based
5 principles.

6 (e) Data shall be collected by service providers and shall
7 be submitted to the department of public safety every six months
8 for evaluation purposes.

9 (f) The department of public safety shall submit an annual
10 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
11 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
12 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2015 and
13 2016.

14 (g) The department of public safety shall:

15 (1) Provide general oversight over the pilot project; and

16 (2) Be the purchaser and contractor of necessary services
17 to support the pilot project.

18 (h) Project participants shall be provided community-based
19 treatment including residential care for one and one-half months
20 to two months; outpatient care for two months to three months;
21 and continuing care for up to six months that is coordinated



1 with other agencies and support groups depending on a
2 participant's needs.

3 (i) As used in this Act:

4 "Community-based treatment" means residential care,
5 outpatient care, and continuing care that is coordinated with
6 other agencies and support groups depending on a participant's
7 needs. "Community-based treatment" includes services such as
8 vocational rehabilitation, sober housing, psychiatric care,
9 medical care, family reunification, and support from faith-based
10 organizations, cultural groups, and recovery support groups.

11 "Nonviolent, low-risk drug offender" means a person
12 incarcerated for drug offenses who is not a violent threat to
13 the community based on the person's current status and previous
14 history.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
18 the pilot project known as the reentry pilot project for
19 nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders established by this Act.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 public safety for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.



Report Title:

Reentry Pilot Project; Nonviolent, Low-risk Drug Offenders;
Appropriation

Description:

Provides systematic reentry programming for nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders by establishing a reentry pilot project for nonviolent, low-risk drug offenders. Effective 7/1/2050, and repealed on 6/30/2016. (SD2)

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