
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that diverting nonviolent
2 drug offenders from incarceration into community-based drug
3 treatment programs results in long-term savings and a reduction
4 in recidivism. The cost of reentry programs is less than
5 incarceration, and research shows that community-based drug
6 treatment programs offer savings of \$10 to \$18 for every \$1
7 spent.

8 The legislature further finds that the State is in a unique
9 position to encourage drug abusers to enter and remain in
10 substance abuse treatment, thereby disrupting the vicious cycle
11 of drug abuse and crime. In the State, there are over one
12 hundred forty drug offenders classified as low-risk inmates who
13 are imprisoned. Community correction centers are overcrowded,
14 and these low-risk, nonviolent drug offenders are at risk of
15 harm. Fifty per cent of the State's prisoners are dependent on
16 drugs, yet less than twenty per cent receive formal treatment
17 while incarcerated.



1 The legislature additionally finds that according to the
2 National Institute of Drug Abuse, when drug abusing offenders
3 receive treatment for their addiction, public health and safety
4 improves. Drug-abusing offenders often suffer from serious
5 diseases, and treatment for addiction can help prevent the
6 spread of these diseases. Substance-abuse treatment and support
7 services enable drug offenders to break the pattern of drug
8 abuse and crime thereby improving public safety. Structured
9 community-based treatment programs offer effective treatment for
10 nonviolent offenders seeking to break the cycle of substance
11 abuse, crime, and incarceration. Moreover, public safety does
12 not need to be compromised, as the majority of incarcerated drug
13 abusers are not violent offenders. Nationally, eighty-five per
14 cent of drug offenders have no prior incarceration for violent
15 crimes.

16 The legislature also finds that structured community-based
17 drug treatment programs use evidence-based practices that
18 produce measurable outcomes to enable nonviolent offenders to
19 transition into the community and achieve self-sufficiency.
20 Effective reentry support services include community-based
21 treatment, intensive case management, enrollment in medical
22 insurance, family reintegration services, drug testing and



1 monitoring, job training and placement, and extended after-care
2 support.

3 The purpose of this Act is to fund and establish a two-year
4 pilot project to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of providing
5 an alternative to incarceration by diverting nonviolent
6 offenders with substance-abuse issues from incarceration into a
7 coordinated system of community-based drug treatment programs
8 and reentry support services. The goals and benefits of this
9 program include:

- 10 (1) Reducing the prison population and the cost of
11 incarceration by decreasing recidivism among
12 nonviolent drug offenders;
- 13 (2) Identifying a network of key resources necessary for
14 success; and
- 15 (3) Preserving public safety through careful initial
16 screening and continuous monitoring of participants in
17 the project as they live in the community.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a two-year diversion
19 and reentry pilot project within the department of public
20 safety.

21 (b) There shall be one hundred participants in the pilot
22 project per year, as follows:



1 (1) Fifty nonviolent male and female offenders diverted
2 from Oahu community correctional center; and

3 (2) Fifty nonviolent male and female offenders who are
4 eligible for early release or parole.

5 (c) The effectiveness of the pilot project shall be
6 evaluated on the following criteria:

7 (1) The reduction in recidivism, as measured by the
8 percentage of project participants who are neither
9 arrested nor incarcerated within eighteen months
10 following release from jail or prison; and

11 (2) Project participants' status six months after early
12 release or parole, based on the following criteria:

13 (A) Record of arrest;

14 (B) Substance abuse;

15 (C) Employment status;

16 (D) Housing status; and

17 (E) The availability of a positive support group.

18 (d) Data shall be collected by service providers and shall
19 be submitted to the department of public safety every six months
20 for evaluation purposes.

21 (e) The department of public safety shall submit an annual
22 report of its findings and recommendations, including any



1 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
2 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2015 and
3 2016.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
7 the establishment of the diversion and reentry pilot project in
8 the department of public safety, to be implemented and
9 administered pursuant to this Act.

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Public Safety; Community-based Treatment Programs; Nonviolent
Drug Offenders; Diversion and Reentry Pilot Project;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the establishment of a diversion and reentry pilot
project. Requires PSD to report on the pilot project.
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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