

JAN 17 2013

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# 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 restorative reentry  
2 circles is a pilot program that was started at the Waiawa  
3 correctional facility in March 2005. The program is based on  
4 the methodological tool known as "restorative justice," which  
5 aims to address the unresolved issues confronting victims,  
6 offenders, and their families. The program brings offenders,  
7 victims, and their respective personal supporters together in a  
8 carefully managed, safe environment. The process is a powerful  
9 healing tool and a way to empower victims to make decisions  
10 about how to repair the harm caused by offenses. Participation  
11 in the program is voluntary and available only to those victims  
12 who choose to participate, and is available to those inmates who  
13 want to reconcile with their victims.

14           The legislature further finds that the restorative program  
15 begins when an incarcerated person requests a "restorative  
16 reentry circle" from that inmate's case worker. A restorative  
17 reentry circle is a group process that requires an impartial,  
18 trained, and experienced community facilitator to meet with the



1 inmate. The facilitator and the inmate start by discussing the  
2 program's goals and process, then identify whom the inmate has  
3 harmed by the inmate's past behavior and whom the inmate wants  
4 to invite for support. Each restorative reentry circle takes  
5 about three hours, with half of the time devoted to  
6 reconciliation and the other half devoted to developing a  
7 reentry transition plan. To date, there have been approximately  
8 ninety restorative reentry circles with a one hundred per cent  
9 satisfaction rate reported by the participating victims,  
10 offenders, and prison staff. This innovative Hawaii pilot  
11 program has been highlighted by the Federal Probation Journal,  
12 Honolulu Magazine, and KITV News. The program recently expanded  
13 to the women's community correctional center.

14       Considering that ninety-five per cent of all inmates will  
15 eventually be released back into the community, the legislature  
16 finds that a program such as this one is vital because it helps  
17 an offender take responsibility for past behavior and plan for  
18 release.

19       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to expand  
20 the restorative reentry circle pilot program to correctional  
21 facilities statewide and require the Department of Public Safety  
22 to contract with a health and human services provider to



1 establish restorative reentry circles programs in correctional  
2 facilities statewide.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2014-2015 for the expansion of the restorative reentry  
8 circles pilot program to correctional facilities statewide.

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

11 SECTION 3. The department of public safety shall contract  
12 with a health and human services provider to establish  
13 restorative reentry circles programs in correctional facilities  
14 statewide. The contract shall be executed in accordance with  
15 chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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# S.B. NO. 70

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013;  
2 provided that the department of public safety shall contract a  
3 health and human services provider pursuant to section 3 of this  
4 Act no later than January 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Will Taylor

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# S.B. NO. 70

**Report Title:**

Public Safety; Restorative Reentry Circles Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to expand the restorative reentry circles pilot program to correctional facilities statewide.

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