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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUUHONUA COMMISSION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in ancient Hawaii  
2 specific sites were set aside in each district and designated as  
3 places of refuge. These sites, known as puuhonua, were used as  
4 sanctuaries for women, children, old or ailing men in times of  
5 war; vanquished warriors fleeing from their would-be  
6 annihilators; criminals fleeing from revengeful pursuers; and  
7 law breakers fleeing from punishment. The puuhonua were  
8 inviolable and their protection extended to the guilty as well  
9 as the innocent. These sanctuaries further served as healing  
10 centers and were a safe, secure area intended to provide a haven  
11 and positive benefit for those utilizing them.

12           The legislature further finds that the concept of puuhonua  
13 can be revitalized within today's correctional system to support  
14 men and women who have previously made wrong decisions in their  
15 lives. The legislature additionally finds that puuhonua should  
16 be incorporated into the State's judicial branch and department  
17 of public safety.



1 The purpose of this Act is to create a puuhonua commission  
2 within the department of public safety to provide formerly  
3 incarcerated individuals a place to heal or become whole again  
4 in a way that benefits society.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 "§353- Puuhonua commission; established. (a) There is  
9 established the puuhonua commission within the department of  
10 public safety for administrative purposes. The commission  
11 shall:

12 (1) Work with post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and  
13 parolees to assist these individuals in the post-  
14 incarceration transition;

15 (2) Develop partnerships with businesses, nonprofit  
16 organizations, churches, unions, government agencies,  
17 schools, and other entities and organizations that  
18 focus on assisting post-incarcerated persons,  
19 parolees, and probationers; and

20 (3) Develop a network of support and assistance to address  
21 housing, healthcare, vocational training, skill



1           building, drug treatment, job searches, counseling,  
2           mentorship, mental health issues, and other needs of  
3           post-incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers,  
4           as necessary.

5           (b) The commission shall meet at least once each quarter  
6 to:

7           (1) Review data and information from the commission's  
8           network of support;

9           (2) Review data provided by government agencies and  
10           partners;

11           (3) Interact with those who are in need of or who are  
12           using the commission's services; and

13           (4) Address other issues as needed.

14           (c) The commission may make recommendations to the  
15 governor, legislature, county mayors, and county councils on  
16 matters relevant to the commission's work.

17           (d) The commission shall consist of nine members to be  
18 appointed as follows:

19           (1) Three members shall be appointed by the governor  
20           pursuant to section 26-34; provided that at least one  
21           member shall be a former inmate;



1       (2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
2       list of nominees submitted by the president of the  
3       senate;

4       (3) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
5       list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house  
6       of representatives; and

7       (4) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
8       list of nominees submitted by the office of Hawaiian  
9       affairs.

10       (e) The terms of the members shall be four years, and no  
11 person shall be appointed consecutively to more than two terms,  
12 in accordance with section 26-34.

13       (f) There is to be established in each of the counties of  
14 the State a puuhonua commission advisory committee. Each  
15 committee shall consist of three members to be appointed as  
16 follows:

17       (1) One member shall be appointed by the governor pursuant  
18       to section 26-34; and

19       (2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a  
20       list of nominees submitted by the mayor of the  
21       appropriate county.



1        Each committee shall meet at least once each quarter. Each  
2 committee shall inform the puuhonua commission of the needs of  
3 probationers, parolees, and post-incarcerated persons within the  
4 county.

5        (g) Members of the commission and the advisory committees  
6 shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for  
7 necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of  
8 their duties, including travel expenses, pending availability of  
9 funds."

10        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Puuhonua Commission; Post-incarcerated Persons; Reintegration

**Description:**

Establishes the Puuhonua Commission within the Department of Public Safety to help post-incarcerated persons, probationers, and parolees reintegrate into society. Creates county advisory committees to advise the commission. (HB2190 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

