
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ASSIST THE STATE
IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF THE FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER, HONOLULU.

1 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that in 2001, the federal
2 Bureau of Prisons opened the Federal Detention Center, Honolulu;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, located on the west side of the Honolulu
6 International Airport, the Federal Detention Center, Honolulu
7 houses male and female federal pre-trial detainees, sentenced
8 felons who have almost completed their prison terms, and Hawaii
9 inmates who are awaiting trial in State court, at an occupancy
10 rate far below the facility's total capacity of 1,200 beds; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Federal Detention Center, Honolulu has an
13 efficient vertical design that requires fewer workers to guard
14 inmates, includes integrated state-of-the-art surveillance and
15 management technologies, and accommodates a wide variety of uses
16 including inmate cells, office areas, medical facilities,
17 recreational areas, storage rooms, food preparation areas,
18 laundry, mechanical rooms, security, and communications; and
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20 WHEREAS, the State has struggled for years to find
21 additional capacity for its overcrowded jails and prisons, which
22 were designed to hold a combined total of 2,491 inmates but are
23 currently holding more than 4,100 inmates; and
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25 WHEREAS, replacing or refurbishing state prisons and jails
26 to meet the current demand for adequate space and services would
27 cost an estimated \$1,500,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000; and



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1 WHEREAS, since June 2001, the State has leased bed space at
2 the Federal Detention Center, Honolulu primarily to relieve jail
3 overcrowding and, since August 2009, has been allowed to house
4 up to 550 male and female inmates at a daily rate of \$114 per
5 inmate; and

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7 WHEREAS, state acquisition of the Federal Detention Center,
8 Honolulu for the purpose of housing state inmates, as well as
9 federal pre-trial detainees and federal inmates serving brief
10 sentences, would help relieve overcrowding at state jails and
11 prisons, accommodate the return of some state inmates who are
12 currently serving sentences in a private correctional facility
13 in Arizona, eliminate the immediate financial burden of building
14 a new state correctional facility, and, through the retention of
15 existing Federal Detention Center staff, save the State money on
16 recruiting, hiring, and training of new corrections personnel to
17 serve within the facility; and

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19 WHEREAS, in the event of state acquisition of the Federal
20 Detention Center, Honolulu the Department of Public Safety has
21 expressed interest in an arrangement that would allow for the
22 continued housing of federal pre-trial detainees and federal
23 inmates serving brief sentences at no cost to the federal Bureau
24 of Prisons; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's
29 congressional delegation is requested to assist the State in
30 negotiating with the federal government for the acquisition of
31 the Federal Detention Center, Honolulu; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that parties to the negotiations are
34 requested to consider continued housing of federal pre-trial
35 detainees and federal inmates serving brief sentences at the
36 facility, under terms favorable to the federal Bureau of
37 Prisons, as a condition of the State's acquisition of the
38 facility; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
 3 congressional delegation, Director of the Federal Bureau of
 4 Prisons, and Director of Public Safety.
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OFFERED BY:

Feli Pahi
Firda Adhizame

Gary Telen
A. J. [unclear]
Deak
[unclear]
Mark [unclear]
Jane [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

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