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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTINUE AND  
EXPAND ITS COMMUNITY-BASED WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAMS TO ASSIST  
FORMERLY INCARCERATED FEMALE INMATES TRANSITION BACK INTO  
SOCIETY.

1           WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs that assist  
2 formerly incarcerated persons transition back into society  
3 reduce incarceration costs and address problems associated with  
4 reentry and the high rate of recidivism; and  
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6           WHEREAS, recent data from the Justice Reinvestment  
7 Initiative indicate that incarceration is not an effective  
8 method for rehabilitating persons with substance abuse  
9 addictions, and that community-based substance abuse treatment  
10 programs are more effective than in-prison treatment; and  
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12           WHEREAS, a majority of female offenders in the State commit  
13 nonviolent crimes and do not pose a threat to the community; and  
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15           WHEREAS, many female offenders return to incarceration if  
16 their recovery is not supported during their transition, and  
17 community-based work furlough programs that integrate trauma-  
18 informed care help nonviolent female offenders break the cycle  
19 of substance abuse, crime, and incarceration; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the majority of incarcerated female offenders are  
22 mothers of minor children, and fragmented families often lead to  
23 integration problems, as evidenced by mothers and daughters  
24 being incarcerated together at the Women's Community  
25 Correctional Center; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs create an  
28 integrated and seamless resocialization and reentry process to  
29 help formerly incarcerated females adjust to greater



1 independence as they transition and reunite with their children  
2 and families; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women have a disproportionate  
5 representation in the State's criminal justice system, making up  
6 over forty-four per cent of the incarcerated female population  
7 and having higher incarceration rates than Native Hawaiian men;  
8 and

9  
10 WHEREAS, a 2012 Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force Report  
11 found that placement of Native Hawaiians in community-based,  
12 cultural and trauma-informed reentry programs are effective in  
13 reducing recidivism; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine, an Oahu-based  
16 program, is the only community-based work furlough program in  
17 the State and has experience in successfully transitioning  
18 formerly incarcerated female offenders through placement in a  
19 community-based work furlough program that emphasizes a gender-  
20 responsive, culturally-sensitive, and trauma-informed framework;  
21 and

22  
23 WHEREAS, 82.4 per cent of women offenders who participate  
24 in this program are not reincarcerated for at least two years  
25 after being released, and Ka Hale Ho ala Hou No Na Wahine can  
26 serve as a successful reentry model for future community-based  
27 work furlough programs; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, community-based work furlough programs not only  
30 empower women to successfully transition from prison to the  
31 community, but also contribute to safer communities; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, as of November 3, 2014, there were six hundred  
34 sixty-five women under the care and custody of the Department of  
35 Public Safety; and

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37 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety reported that the  
38 cost of incarceration is \$134 per day for each inmate; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, reducing recidivism and subsequent incarceration  
41 will not only provide long-term cost savings to the Department



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1 of Public Safety, but will also contribute to creating safer  
2 communities; now, therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
7 Public Safety is encouraged to continue and expand its  
8 structured, community-based work furlough programs to assist  
9 formerly incarcerated female inmates transition back into  
10 society; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
14 Director of Public Safety, and the Auditor.  
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OFFERED BY: Allen A. Bellotti

Yitdaddhinyane  
[Signature]  
Blake  
Karl Rhoad

[Signature]  
Jessie E. Poon  
Luz DeCrista  
[Signature]  
J. M. Mitt  
Cindy Evans  
[Signature]  
Guthrie Threlk

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