
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE REENTRY COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE REENTRY ACADEMY FOR TRAINING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCES (RAFTER) TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAM FOR INMATES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's prison system houses many more inmates
2 than it was designed for and may be in danger of violating
3 federal standards; and
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5 WHEREAS, there have been continual discussions about
6 building new prison facilities that would be completed in five
7 to ten years; and
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9 WHEREAS, 49.6 per cent of convicted felons return to prison
10 within one year of their release, further straining an
11 overburdened prison system; and
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13 WHEREAS, the reentry into society of former inmates has
14 often been difficult because they frequently lack marketable
15 skills, training they received earlier has become obsolete, or
16 they acquired negative habits while in prison and lack
17 motivation; and
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19 WHEREAS, to reduce recidivism, several states have
20 established programs that include vocational training and
21 mentoring to give inmates the opportunity to learn professional,
22 vocational, and life skills that enable them to become
23 productive and tax-paying contributors to society; and
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the opportunity to implement a similar
26 program to provide inmates who demonstrate aptitude and desire
27 with a chance to learn valuable skills and receive
28 entrepreneurial training that will facilitate their successful
29 reentry into society; and
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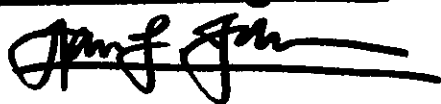
1 WHEREAS, Act 24, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, as
 2 amended, established a Reentry Commission to work with the
 3 Department of Public Safety in monitoring and reviewing the
 4 department's comprehensive offender reentry program, including,
 5 among other things, facility educational and treatment programs;
 6 now, therefore,


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 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 9 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 10 Session of 2016, that the Reentry Commission is requested to
 11 conduct a study regarding the feasibility of establishing the
 12 Reentry Academy For Training and Entrepreneurial Resources
 13 (RAFTER) program to offer inmates training and mentoring in
 14 business development and ownership, restaurant and hospitality
 15 industry skills, vocational trades, and life skills; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Reentry Commission is
 18 requested to submit a report of its findings and
 19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 21 the Regular Session of 2017; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Reentry Commission.
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OFFERED BY:


 Lirdadehizame



 Gary Taylor
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