
HOUSE 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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29 WHEREAS, since June 2001, the State has leased bed space at
30 the Federal Detention Center, Honolulu primarily to relieve jail
31 overcrowding and, since August 2009, has been allowed to house



1 up to 550 male and female inmates at a daily rate of \$114 per
2 inmate; and

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

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

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

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that parties to the negotiations are
31 requested to consider continued housing of federal pre-trial
32 detainees and federal inmates serving brief sentences at the
33 facility, under terms favorable to the federal Bureau of
34 Prisons, as a condition of the State's acquisition of the
35 facility; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 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:

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