
SENATE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 Senate of the Twenty-eighth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
6 House of Representatives 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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