

MAR 11 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO ESTABLISH THE PUUHONUA PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE CONTINUED REHABILITATION OF POST-INCARCERATED PERSONS, PAROLEES, AND PROBATIONERS.

1 WHEREAS, the State places a high priority on rehabilitating
2 offenders and reducing recidivism, thereby decreasing the high
3 costs associated with incarceration; and
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5 WHEREAS, the existing Reentry Commission works with the
6 Department of Public Safety to monitor and review the offender
7 reentry program; however, the Commission is not responsible for
8 post-release programs and services; and
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10 WHEREAS, in ancient Hawaii, puuhonua were designated sites
11 in each district that were places of refuge for women, children,
12 old or ailing men in times of war, vanquished warriors, and
13 fleeing criminals; and
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15 WHEREAS, puuhonua were safe and inviolable healing sites
16 that provided refuge and protection for the guilty and the
17 innocent; and
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19 WHEREAS, the concept of puuhonua can be applied to
20 establish the Puuhonua Program to support men and women who have
21 made wrong decisions, are incarcerated, and are later released
22 from incarceration; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is urged to
27 establish the Puuhonua Program in the Department of Public
28 Safety for the continued rehabilitation of post-incarcerated
29 persons, parolees, and probationers; and
30



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety
 2 may accept funding from non-profit organizations and other non-
 3 government agencies to ensure necessary resources are available
 4 for the establishment of the Puuhonua Program; and

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 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Puuhonua Program is
 7 requested to support and work with post-incarcerated persons,
 8 parolees, and probationers in the transition from incarceration
 9 to society; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Puuhonua Program is
 12 requested to develop partnerships with businesses, non-profit
 13 organizations, churches, unions, government agencies, schools,
 14 and other organizations, that focus on assisting post-
 15 incarcerated persons, parolees, and probationers; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Puuhonua Program is
 18 requested to develop a network of support and assistance to
 19 address housing, healthcare, vocational training, skill
 20 building, drug treatment, job searching, counseling, mentoring,
 21 mental health issues, and other needs of post-incarcerated
 22 persons, parolees, and probationers, as necessary; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
 26 Director of Public Safety.

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OFFERED BY: Will Zero
 Clarence K. Meehan
 Francis R. Anonue
 Ronny de Brito
 J. Helen Gresh

