

MAR 10 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PURSUANT TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY EFFECTIVE INCARCERATION POLICIES TO IMPROVE HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM, TO DELAY PLANS TO BUILD A NEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ON OAHU UNTIL THE TASK FORCE ISSUES ITS FINAL REPORT THAT WILL PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE ROAD MAP FOR REFORMING HAWAII'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety proposes to
2 replace the current Oahu Community Correctional Center with a
3 modern facility that broadens its custody and treatment scope
4 and capability with county- and community-based correctional
5 services; and

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7 WHEREAS, eleven parcels of land ten acres or greater in
8 size have been identified as potential development sites for the
9 proposed replacement facility; and

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11 WHEREAS, the environmental impact statement process has
12 begun for the four potential sites short-listed by the
13 Department of Public Safety for the proposed replacement of the
14 Oahu Community Correctional Center; and

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16 WHEREAS, legislation is currently being considered that
17 directs the Department of Public Safety to suspend the current
18 environmental impact statement process for the proposed
19 replacement of the Oahu Community Correctional Center and
20 instead solicit proposals for a larger correctional facility at
21 the site of the Waiawa Correctional Facility that would be
22 capable of also housing Hawaii inmates currently housed out of
23 state; and

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25 WHEREAS, a thirteen-member task force was established by
26 H.C.R. No. 85, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 (H.C.R. No. 85), Regular Session
27 of 2016, to study effective incarceration policies to improve
28 Hawaii's correctional system; and
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1 WHEREAS, members of the task force include public safety
2 officials, former prisoners, and chairpersons of the legislative
3 committees that oversee public safety; and
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5 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives Committee on Public
6 Safety and the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
7 Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs held a joint
8 informational briefing on February 23, 2017, to discuss the
9 progress of the task force; and
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11 WHEREAS, the task force suggested at the briefing that
12 current planning for development of new correctional facilities
13 may be premature as the task force is looking at options to
14 significantly reduce the State's inmate population and create a
15 more cost-effective system focusing on rehabilitation rather
16 than punishment; and
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18 WHEREAS, policies the task force is studying to reduce the
19 incarceration rate include providing nonmonetary bail options,
20 increasing substance abuse treatment programs, and improving
21 support systems for parolees to reduce recidivism; and
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23 WHEREAS, the task force is also recommending that the State
24 expand its substance abuse treatment courts, create an academy
25 to train correctional workers, and increase efforts to reduce
26 the incarceration rate of Native Hawaiians; and
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28 WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the task force that
29 the State delay plans to build a new correctional facility on
30 Oahu until the task force can issue its final report that will
31 provide a comprehensive road map for reforming Hawaii's
32 correctional system; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
36 that the Department of Public Safety is requested, pursuant to
37 the recommendation of the task force established pursuant to
38 H.C.R. No. 85, Regular Session of 2016, to delay plans to build
39 a new correctional facility on Oahu until the task force issues
40 its final report that will provide a comprehensive road map for
41 reforming Hawaii's correctional system, which is due no later



1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
2 of 2018; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the final report of the task
5 force identify sites ten acres or less in size to reflect that
6 modern facilities can be developed vertically; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state laws, including those
9 laws pertaining to environmental impact statements and
10 environmental assessments, and county ordinances shall be
11 complied with in the process of studying and developing a new
12 correctional facility; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Public
16 Safety; provided that the Director of Public Safety is requested
17 to transmit copies of this Concurrent Resolution to the members
18 of the task force created by H.C.R. No. 85, H.D. 2, S.D. 1,
19 Regular Session of 2016.

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OFFERED BY:

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