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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has a  
2 significant number of incarcerated youths and adults  
3 transitioning back into society. The Hawai'i Council for  
4 Humanities launched a pilot series, *Try Think*, a discussion  
5 program for incarcerated individuals to reflect on current  
6 events and talk openly about their thoughts and feelings about  
7 present cultural, political, and social issues. Participants  
8 discuss a variety of contemporary topics that focus on the theme  
9 of "Community and Culture" and consider how cultural values and  
10 perceptions affect their thoughts about community and their role  
11 in society. The legislature finds that implementing a similar  
12 program throughout the State's correctional facilities will  
13 improve incarcerated individuals' transition back into society  
14 and reduce recidivism.

15           The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot program on  
16 the island of Oahu to reduce recidivism through intervention,



1 prevention, cultural support, and education initiatives, and  
2 appropriate funds for the program.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
4 of public safety for administrative purposes a pilot program to  
5 administer courses and other initiatives that reduce recidivism  
6 through intervention, prevention, cultural support, and  
7 education.

8 (b) The pilot program shall be administered at  
9 correctional facilities and centers located on the island of  
10 Oahu and may also be administered through programs conducted  
11 outside of correctional facilities and centers, such as through  
12 furlough programs and clean and sober houses, to assist  
13 individuals transitioning back into society.

14 (c) The pilot program shall allow participants to evaluate  
15 themselves and reflect on current local, national, and global  
16 events through courses and other initiatives designed to:

- 17 (1) Redefine themselves and the direction of their lives;
- 18 (2) Identify their roles and responsibilities within their  
19 own communities;



1           (3) Understand the rights and duties of citizenship and  
2           how they can be more civically engaged in their  
3           communities;

4           (4) Better understand and make personal connections to  
5           current events on a local, national, and international  
6           level;

7           (5) Participate in debates and discussions designed to  
8           challenge and improve their critical thinking skills  
9           and allow for consideration of multiple perspectives  
10          on a variety of issues; and

11          (6) Challenge assumptions and stereotypes they have about  
12          themselves and others and vice versa.

13          (d) Participants of the pilot program that are using  
14          correctional facility- and center-based initiatives shall attend  
15          weekly meetings for ten to twelve weeks. Participants of the  
16          pilot program that are using non-correctional facility- or  
17          center-based initiatives shall attend regular monthly meetings  
18          to keep participants engaged in transition back into their local  
19          communities.

20          (e) The department of public safety shall submit a report  
21          of its findings and recommendations, including a plan to



1 implement the pilot program statewide and any proposed  
2 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
3 to the regular session of 2021.

4 (f) The pilot program shall cease to exist on  
5 June 30, 2021.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
10 2020-2021 for the pilot program established pursuant to this Act  
11 and the hiring of the necessary staff to carry out the pilot  
12 program's duties and responsibilities.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
14 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures: John M. Thomas, Nadie K. Nuh, Calvin K. Jay, Amy Perusso, and another signature]*



# H.B. NO. 670

**Report Title:**

Public Safety; Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year pilot program on the island of Oahu to reduce recidivism through intervention, prevention, cultural support, and education initiatives. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

