

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ASSIST THE STATE
IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF THE FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER IN HONOLULU.

1 WHEREAS, in 2001, the federal Bureau of Prisons opened the
2 Federal Detention Center in Honolulu (Honolulu Federal Detention
3 Center); and
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5 WHEREAS, located on the west side of the Daniel K. Inouye
6 International Airport, the Honolulu Federal Detention Center
7 houses male and female federal pre-trial detainees, sentenced
8 felons nearing completion of 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 one thousand two
11 hundred beds; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Federal Detention Center has an
14 efficient vertical design that requires fewer workers to
15 operate, includes integrated state-of-the-art surveillance and
16 management technologies, and accommodates a wide variety of uses
17 including inmate cells, office areas, medical facilities,
18 recreational areas, storage rooms, food preparation areas,
19 laundry areas, mechanical rooms, security systems, and
20 communications systems; and
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22 WHEREAS, the State has struggled for years to find
23 additional capacity for its overcrowded jails and prisons, which
24 were designed to hold a combined total of 2,491 inmates but are
25 currently exceeding capacity by housing 3,527 inmates; and
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27 WHEREAS, replacing or refurbishing state prisons and jails
28 to meet the current demand for adequate space and services would
29 cost an estimated \$1,500,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000; and
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31 WHEREAS, since June 2001, the State has leased bed space at
32 the Honolulu Federal Detention Center to relieve jail
33 overcrowding--for example, in September 2019, the Honolulu
34 Federal Detention Center housed one hundred eighty-six male and



1 female inmates under the department of public safety's
2 jurisdiction at a daily cost of \$129.48 per inmate; and
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4 WHEREAS, as anticipated, the number of Honolulu Federal
5 Detention Center inmates has decreased since the passage of the
6 First Step Act of 2018, a bipartisan criminal justice reform
7 effort that, in part, aimed to reduce recidivism and decrease
8 the number of inmates housed in federal correctional facilities;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, state acquisition of the Honolulu Federal
12 Detention Center would enable its use as a replacement for a new
13 Oahu community correctional center, eliminate the immediate
14 financial burden of building a new state correctional facility,
15 and allow the current site of the Oahu community correctional
16 center to be vacated by the department of public safety and
17 redesignated for a non-correctional use; and
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19 WHEREAS, interest in acquiring the Honolulu Federal
20 Detention Center dates as far back as the Regular Session of
21 2016, when the Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution
22 No. 33, which requested Hawaii's congressional delegation to
23 assist the State in negotiating with the federal government for
24 the acquisition of the Honolulu Federal Detention Center; now,
25 therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
29 that Hawaii's congressional delegation is requested to assist
30 the State in negotiating with the federal government for the
31 acquisition of the Honolulu Federal Detention Center; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that parties to the negotiations are
34 requested to consider the continued housing of federal pre-trial
35 detainees and federal inmates serving short sentences at the
36 Honolulu Federal Detention Center, under terms favorable to the
37 federal Bureau of Prisons, as a condition of the State's
38 acquisition of the facility; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's



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1 congressional delegation, the Director of the Federal Bureau of
2 Prisons, and the Director of Public Safety.

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OFFERED BY:

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