

JAN 17 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that prison pet programs  
2 started in the 1980s as a way to decrease recidivism. Several  
3 states, including Indiana and California, have implemented  
4 programs that allow inmates to foster animals while  
5 incarcerated. Research shows that pet programs improve personal  
6 responsibility for offenders; relationships between inmates,  
7 prison staff, and administrators; and inmates' self-esteem,  
8 self-efficacy, and empathy. Pet programs have also been shown  
9 to increase emotional intelligence, coping skills, and work  
10 ethic and employability, which improve the chances of job  
11 readiness and are critical factors in reducing recidivism. Pet  
12 programs also help to address staffing problems in the American  
13 animal sheltering system by having inmates care for animals and  
14 prepare them for adoption.

15           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

16           (1) Require the department of corrections and  
17           rehabilitation to establish a two-year pilot program



1 to allow inmates incarcerated at the women's community  
2 correctional center to foster pets while incarcerated;

3 (2) Require the department of corrections and  
4 rehabilitation to submit a report to the legislature;  
5 and

6 (3) Appropriate funds.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
8 of corrections and rehabilitation a two-year pilot program to  
9 allow inmates incarcerated at the women's community correctional  
10 center to foster pets while incarcerated.

11 (b) The department of corrections and rehabilitation may  
12 contract with a public or private animal shelter or animal  
13 welfare agency to carry out the purposes of this Act.

14 (c) The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall  
15 submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding  
16 the pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to the  
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the regular session of 2026.

19 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



1 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
2 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
3 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
4 \$            or            per cent. This current declaration takes  
5 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
6 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
7 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
8 ceiling are that:

- 9            (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
10            serve the public interest; and  
11            (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
12            addressed by this Act.

13            SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
16 department of corrections and rehabilitation to establish a  
17 pilot program to allow inmates incarcerated at the women's  
18 community correctional center to foster pets while incarcerated;  
19 provided that the funds may be used for personnel costs,  
20 supplies, and other related expenses to operate the pilot  
21 program.

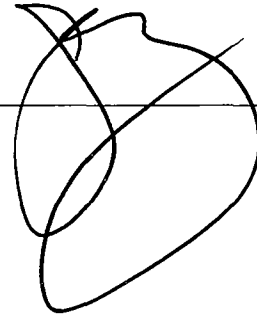


1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 corrections and rehabilitation for the purposes of this Act;  
3 provided that all moneys that are unencumbered as of June 30,  
4 2026, shall lapse as of that date.

5           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned over the line following "INTRODUCED BY:".

# S.B. NO. 2094

**Report Title:**

DCR; Pilot Program; Women Inmates; Pets; Foster Animals; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a two-year pilot program to allow inmates incarcerated at the women's community correctional center to foster pets while incarcerated. Requires DCR to submit a report to the Legislature. 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.*

