
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 one-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 one-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 2025.

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 \$ or so
 15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 16 the 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 January 1, 2042.



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 one-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. Declares that the general expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 1/1/2042. (SD1)

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

