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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE WOMEN'S CORRECTIONS IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN INCARCERATED AT THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER BY TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

1 WHEREAS, transforming the State's prison system from a  
2 punitive to a rehabilitative model is a priority of this body;  
3 and  
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5 WHEREAS, this body has given specific programmatic  
6 attention to women in the criminal justice system; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted House Concurrent  
9 Resolution No. 85, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2016,  
10 which requested the establishment of a task force to study  
11 effective incarceration policies in Hawaii and other  
12 jurisdictions; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the final report of the task force stated that  
15 "the current model of prisons in Hawaii reinforces  
16 institutionalized thinking and thought patterns and re-  
17 traumatizes women"; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the final report emphasized that "[w]omen should  
20 be placed in community-based programs as soon as possible after  
21 incarceration" because "being part of a community and learning  
22 to navigate that community reinforces the reality that there is  
23 something beyond incarceration,"; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the final report also highlighted the differences  
26 between women and men offenders and found that women offenders  
27 "tend to have a history of physical and/or sexual abuse" and  
28 that their "involvement in criminal activity is often motivated  
29 by poverty and/or substance abuse, and they are less likely than  
30 men to have been convicted of a violent crime"; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, according to the 2023 Annual Report of the  
3 Criminal Justice Research Institute, roughly 86.5 percent of  
4 women at the Women's Community Correctional Center had no  
5 violent offenses under the Women's Corrections Implementation  
6 Commission's definition of "violent offense"; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Legislature specifically recognized the  
9 differences between women and men in the criminal justice system  
10 when it established the Women's Corrections Implementation  
11 Commission under Act 244, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, to, among  
12 other things, "[d]evelop and implement an evidence-based,  
13 gender-responsive plan to divert non-violent women offenders,  
14 especially those with minor children, from the criminal justice  
15 system"; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, there has been little progress diverting non-  
18 violent women offenders from prison as the recidivism rate  
19 remains at fifty percent and the population at the Women's  
20 Community Correctional Center remains at approximately two  
21 hundred, a nine hundred fifty percent increase since 1978 when  
22 only nineteen women were incarcerated there; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, the lack of progress diverting women from the  
25 criminal justice system can be traced to two failings: the lack  
26 of a definite, measurable goal by which to reduce the number of  
27 incarcerated women and a lack of resources allocated to proven  
28 community-based rehabilitative programs; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, there is a need in the State to establish policy  
31 changes regarding probation, parole, and restitution; set  
32 measurable goals to reduce the number of incarcerated women; and  
33 provide sufficient resources to community-based programs to  
34 include mental health counseling, drug and alcohol treatment,  
35 education, and job training; now, therefore,

36  
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
38 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
39 Session of 2024, that the Women's Corrections Implementation  
40 Commission is requested to develop a strategy and make  
41 recommendations to reduce the number of women incarcerated at



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1 the Women's Community Correctional Center by twenty-five percent  
2 by 2029; and

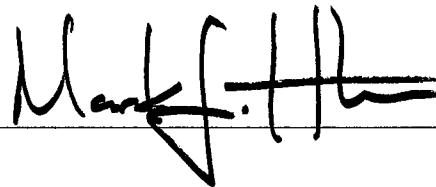
3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in developing a strategy and  
5 making recommendations, the Women's Corrections Implementation  
6 Commission is requested to work with the Judiciary, Department  
7 of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services,  
8 Department of Health, Department of Education, Office of the  
9 State Public Defender, Hawaii Paroling Authority, each county  
10 police department and county prosecuting attorney, and  
11 community-based organizations; and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women's Corrections  
14 Implementation Commission is requested to submit:

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- 16 (1) An initial report of its findings and recommendations,  
17 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature  
18 no later than November 1, 2024; and
- 19
- 20 (2) Subsequent reports of its findings and  
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,  
22 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
23 the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2026, 2027,  
24 2028, and 2029; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrative Director of the  
28 Courts, Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Director of  
29 Human Services, Director of Health, Superintendent of Education,  
30 State Public Defender, Chairperson of the Hawaii Paroling  
31 Authority, Chiefs of Police of each county, and Prosecuting  
32 Attorneys of each county.

33  
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35 OFFERED BY:



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