

JAN 10 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRISONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's prison
2 system is bursting at the seams with a swelling inmate
3 population. Since 1995, the department of public safety has
4 been transporting prisoners to facilities in Oklahoma, Texas,
5 Oregon, Minnesota, Arizona, and Tennessee. Approximately
6 eighteen hundred Hawaii inmates are housed in out-of-state
7 correctional facilities each year. That is nearly half of the
8 Hawaii prison population. Although this is a temporary
9 solution, the State cannot afford to transport inmates to
10 mainland facilities indefinitely.

11 According to the department of public safety's 2004 annual
12 report, forty-one per cent of male inmates and forty-four per
13 cent of female inmates are classified as minimum security or
14 community custody level inmates.

15 However, due to budget constraints, Hawaii has only two
16 minimum-security prisons, Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu



1 and Kulani correctional facility on the island of Hawaii. Both
2 Waiawa and Kulani often exceed their operational capacity.

3 The legislature finds that a study is needed to determine
4 the best possible sites in the State for a new minimum security
5 prison facility.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
7 public safety to conduct a study to explore and determine three
8 sites in the State for a minimum security prison facility.

9 SECTION 2. (a) The department of public safety shall
10 undertake a study to explore and determine three sites within
11 the State for a minimum security prison to house a minimum of
12 five hundred inmates and to include an intensive mandatory
13 substance abuse treatment program. Of the three sites
14 determined by the department of public safety, two sites shall
15 be located on Oahu and the third site shall be located on one of
16 the neighbor islands. In determining the three sites, the
17 department of public safety may consider expansion of existing
18 facilities. The study shall include, but not be limited to, a
19 list of all sites considered by the department of public safety
20 and an evaluation as to the feasibility of planning, designing,
21 and constructing a suitable minimum security facility at the
22 three sites identified, and the estimated costs of planning,



1 designing, and constructing the facility at each of the
2 identified sites.

3 (b) The department of public safety shall complete the
4 study mandated in subsection (a) by December 15, 2007, and shall
5 submit a report to the legislature of its findings and
6 recommendations no later than January 1, 2008, including any
7 proposed legislation to implement the recommendations found in
8 the report.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Prison Study; New Prison Facility

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to conduct a study to identify three sites within the State for a new minimum security prison by December 15, 2007. Requires a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2008.

