

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSING HAWAII INMATES IN PRIVATE MAINLAND PRISONS

Whereas, *Fiscal Accountability* is a part of the Hawai`i Republican Party's Platform,

Whereas, Governor Neil Abercrombie issued a press release on December 16, 2010, reiterating his commitment to try and bring home island inmates kept in privately run mainland prisons. Mr. Abercrombie said it's "dysfunctional" to send Hawaii prisoners out of state because it costs money, damages communities, and destroys families;

Whereas, in a *Star-Bulletin* article dated March 30, 2010, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, the former Chairwoman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, stated that based on 2009 budget reports, she could "...save \$12.5 million by closing one module at Halawa Correctional Facility. That's not something we wanted to do, but we could not ignore the fact that it costs us approximately \$139 per day to house an inmate here while it costs only \$74 per day on the mainland;"

Whereas, in 2010, budget reports confirm that the cost to house an inmate on the mainland has decreased to \$62.73 per day and the cost to house an inmate Hawai`i remains the same at \$139 per day, costing the State over 50% more to house in Hawai`i;

Whereas, private prisons on the mainland provide cognitive and behavioral rehabilitative programs, education, and vocational training to Hawai`i inmates. Programming in Hawai`i's correctional facilities is limited and very often not available due to inefficient allocation of funds;

Whereas, although limited rehabilitative programs are available in Hawai`i state correctional facilities, it is not an "essential post" as designated by the United Public Workers (UPW) union so such programs are the first to close if prison guards fail to show up for work. There is a lengthy documented history on prison guard sick leave abuse and overtime abuse costing the State millions of dollars;

Whereas, the Hawai`i correctional facilities are triple-bunking, basic needs of an offender are barely being met, there have been documented problems with providing adequate meals, and emergency release of inmates is being considered;

Whereas, an offender needs rehabilitative programs to prepare for his/her eventual return to the community to become a law-abiding citizen. If an offender is ill-prepared, he/she presents a danger to the community, to himself or herself, and jeopardizes the public's safety;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Hawai`i Republican Party in convention at Lihue, Hawai`i, May 14, 2011, declares that it is both fiscally responsible and is the very best for overall safety of Hawai`i's communities to house inmates in private prison facilities on the mainland.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be posted on the Hawai`i Republican Party website and distributed to Hawai`i elected officials and media for public dissemination.