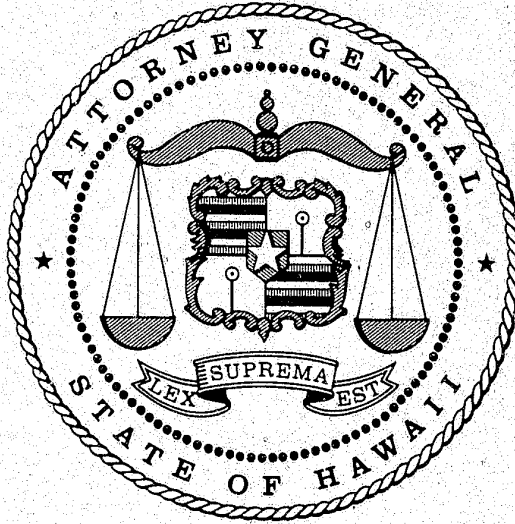


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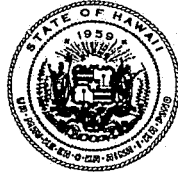
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PAROLE AND RECIDIVISM

HAWAII CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER

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PAROLE AND RECIDIVISM

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U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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August 1989

Research and Statistics Report (RS08)

FOREWORD

In 1984, the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center published a report entitled, "Re-Arrest After Release from Prison." The report examined the nature and extent of recidivism among prisoners released on parole in 1978 and 1979. The report looked at prior criminal history and personal background traits as possible predictors of recidivism.

This report, "Parole and Recidivism," covers prisoners released on parole in 1984 and 1985. Like the previous parole report, it examines various aspects of recidivism. It also presents more detailed information on social factors as recommended in the first report.

We wish to thank the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Mr. Marc Oley, Chairperson, and staff, for their assistance. Their cooperation was essential in producing this report.

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PAROLE AND RECIDIVISM

INTRODUCTION

The Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center (HCJDC) conducted a study on offenders released on parole in Hawaii. The study examined parolee characteristics, prior criminal history, and post-release criminal activity. The study also examined the adjustment or progress made by the offender during parole.

This report presents the results of the study. The report includes sections on background variables, socio-economic variables, and criminal history. It shows relationships between some of these variables and recidivism. The data in this report may aid administrators in identifying factors that contribute to recidivism. It may also help the paroling authority in examining supervision programs and policy decisions.

PAROLE

The laws in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapters 353 and 706 govern parole.

Hawaii Paroling Authority

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) consists of a chairperson and two members. The chairperson is the only full-time member of the authority.¹ The governor appoints the three members to four year terms.²

The paroling authority acts by majority on all issues involving the parole of prisoners.³ They may also set the rules on the parole of prisoners.⁴ These rules have the effect of law and the HPA has the power to enforce them.

HRS section 353-62 contains a list of responsibilities and duties of the HPA. One such responsibility is the determination of the minimum time a prisoner must serve before becoming eligible for parole.⁵ HRS section 706-669 lists the procedure for determining the minimum term. Of the eligible prisoners, the authority decides who is to receive parole and under what conditions.⁶ HRS section 353-67 allows the HPA to require further education as a condition of parole.

After the authority grants parole, a parole officer supervises the parolee. The parole officer records the progress of the parolee covering areas such as employment, habits, health, and environment. At least monthly, the parole officer reports to the authority on the conduct of the parolee. HRS section 353-71 lists the duties of parole officers.

By law, HPA reviews parolees for possible discharge after five years of supervision.⁷ However, if the parolee's adjustment is exemplary, the HPA may review the parolee for early discharge after three years. The parolee must not have an outstanding restitution debt.

STUDY DESIGN

The study examined prisoners granted parole by the HPA in calendar years 1984 and 1985.⁸ It focused on the characteristics of the parolee, socio-economic variables, and criminal activity. Socio-economic variables such as education, social support, employment, physical health, and

habits are factors that may affect the offender's ability to adjust to parole. The parole adjustment period is the time from release to discharge. However, if discharge occurred after December 31, 1988, then the adjustment period was from release to December 31, 1988. Data collection ended on December 31, 1988, the study cut-off date.

The study examined the relationship between socio-economic and other factors, and recidivism. The study defined recidivism as "the arrest of the parolee for criminal events that took place after the HPA granted parole." It excludes civil violation arrests.

The recidivism data in this report include the number of arrests, the number of convictions, and the type of offenses. The study recorded recidivism data from release on parole to the cut-off date. This means that the parolee's first rearrest, if any, may have occurred after discharge from parole.

The major sources of data were the HPA files and the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics/Computerized Criminal History (OBTS/CCH) system. Prior criminal history and post-release criminal activity information came from OBTS/CCH files. Socio-economic data for the parole period came from summary and status reports written by the parole officers. Socio-economic data for the pre-sentence period came from pre-sentence investigation and correctional status reports.⁹

The charges presented in this report follow a hierarchical rule. For example, if there were multiple conviction charges of different severity, the study selected the most serious conviction offense. If there were multiple conviction charges of similar severity, the study selected the offense with the longest maximum sentence term.¹⁰

In the report, the term "current" means the most recent activity prior to parole. For example, "current incarceration" means the incarceration from which the prisoner was released on parole in 1984 or 1985.

The term "arrest", as used in this report, refers to an event and not to a charge. An arrest event is defined as the apprehending of a suspect and the charging of the suspect for all offenses related to a criminal incident.

The study examined one additional aspect of parole. In 1985, the HPA granted parole to some offenders to help reduce the prison population. This occurred because of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) concern about overcrowding in Hawaii's prisons.¹¹ The study compared this subset of the 1985 parolees, the "consent agreement" parolees, with other 1985 parolees.

Sample

The HPA provided a list containing the names of 422 offenders released on parole during 1984 and 1985. Of the 422 offenders, 56 moved to the mainland U.S. or to foreign destinations. The study dropped these reciprocal supervision parolees from the sample. The 56 parolees included 7 who were consent agreement people. The final sample size was 366. Of the 366 offenders, 24 were consent agreement parolees. Table 1 outlines the final sample.

Tables

For the tables in this report, please note that the percentage totals may not add to 100.0 due to rounding. Also, where not specifically stated, the column heading "Number" refers to the number of parolees.

**TABLE 1
FINAL SAMPLE**

Type	Number of Prisoners
1984 Releases - regular	138
1985 Releases - regular	204
consent agreement	24
TOTAL	366

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The majority of prisoners released from prison on parole in 1984-1985, 94.0 percent, were males. Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian made up the largest single race category of parolees. Almost one-half, 46.7 percent, were in that category. Almost one-half, 47.0 percent, were also under 26 years of age at the time of admission to their current incarceration. The median age at admission was 26 years. The average age was 28 years. (Socio-economic data are presented in a separate section.)

**TABLE 2
SEX, RACE, AND AGE OF PAROLEE**

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	344	94.0
Female	22	6.0
TOTAL	366	100.0

Race	Number	Percent
Black	14	3.8
Chinese	1	0.3
Filipino	23	6.3
Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian	171	46.7
Indian	1	0.3
Japanese	20	5.5
Korean	5	1.4
Samoan	14	3.8
White	81	22.1
Other	36	9.8
TOTAL	366	100.0

Age At Admission	Number	Percent
Under 18	1	0.3
18-20	53	14.5
21-25	118	32.2
26-30	80	21.9
31-35	44	12.0
36-40	36	9.8
Over 40	34	9.3
TOTAL	366	100.0

The most serious conviction charge for the parolee's current incarceration is listed in Table 3. A little more than one-third, 36.6 percent, were convicted of the property crimes of burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft. Robbery and drug charges accounted for close to another one-third, 30.3 percent.

**TABLE 3
MOST SERIOUS CONVICTION CHARGE
CURRENT INCARCERATION**

Charge	Number	Percent
Murder	14	3.8
Manslaughter	13	3.6
Negligent Homicide	1	0.3
Assault	16	4.4
Reckless Endangering/Terroristic Threatening	4	1.1
Kidnapping	6	1.6
Rape	15	4.1
Sodomy	4	1.1
Other Sex Offenses	5	1.4
Robbery	56	15.3
Burglary	67	18.3
Property Damage	3	0.8
Theft	55	15.0
MVT	12	3.3
Forgery/Credit Card Fraud	6	1.6
Escape/Prison Contraband	14	3.8
Hindering Prosecution	1	0.3
Conspiracy	3	0.8
Weapon Law Violations	16	4.4
Dangerous Drugs	51	13.9
Other Drugs	4	1.1
TOTAL	366	100.0

Table 4 shows the maximum term received during sentencing for the current incarceration. Most of the parolees received 5 or 10 year terms. Six parolees received life terms, and 21 were sentenced as youthful offenders (4 and 8 year terms.) Parolees with terms such as 30, 50, or 60 years were sentenced prior to current sentencing laws.

**TABLE 4
MAXIMUM TERM
CURRENT INCARCERATION**

Term	Number	Percent
4 Years	14	3.8
5 Years	147	40.2
8 Years	7	1.9
10 Years	122	33.3
20 Years	64	17.5
30 Years	1	0.3
50 Years	3	0.8
60 Years	2	0.5
Life	6	1.6
TOTAL	366	100.0

Table 5 shows the minimum terms. The minimum term, also known as the parole minimum, is set by the HPA and is the minimum amount of time a prisoner must serve in prison before becoming eligible for parole. It should be noted that the granting of parole is not automatic. The minimum terms ranged from a low of about 4 months to a high of 20 years.

**TABLE 5
MINIMUM TERM
CURRENT INCARCERATION**

Term	Number	Percent
1 Year or less	45	12.3
1+ to 2 Years	71	19.4
2+ to 3 Years	77	21.0
3+ to 4 Years	51	13.9
4+ to 5 Years	54	14.8
5+ to 10 Years	59	16.1
Over 10 Years	9	2.5
TOTAL	366	100.0

Table 6 compares the minimum and maximum terms. A little more than one-third of the parolees, 34.3 percent, were required to serve more than one-half of their maximum term before becoming eligible for parole.

TABLE 6
MINIMUM TERM AS A PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM TERM

Percentage of Maximum	Number	Percent
0-10	46	12.6
11-20	39	10.7
21-30	45	12.3
31-40	52	14.2
41-50	59	16.1
51-60	46	12.6
61-70	16	4.4
71-80	30	8.2
81-90	5	1.4
91-100	28	7.7
TOTAL	366	100.0

In terms of actual time served in prison, the majority of parolees served five years or less in prison. Table 7 computes time served from the time the parolee was admitted to prison to the time the parolee was released on parole. The median time served in prison was 1,088.5 days or close to 3 years. The average stay in prison was 1,377.5 days or a little over 3 years and 9 months.

TABLE 7
TIME SERVED IN PRISON

Time	Number	Percent
1 YEAR OR LESS	56	15.3
1+ TO 2 YEARS	70	19.1
2+ TO 5 YEARS	157	42.9
5+ TO 10 YEARS	65	17.8
10+ TO 15 YEARS	16	4.4
OVER 15 YEARS	2	0.5
TOTAL	366	100.0

A little over one-third of the parolees served at least 51 percent of their maximum term. Two parolees served more than 100 percent; both were escapees. Conviction for escape usually involves a consecutive sentence.

**TABLE 8
TIME SERVED AS A PERCENTAGE OF MAXIMUM TERM**

Percentage of Maximum	Number	Percent
0 -10	56	15.3
11-20	37	10.1
21-30	49	13.4
31-40	42	11.5
41-50	46	12.6
51-60	37	10.1
61-70	32	8.7
71-80	25	6.8
81-90	23	6.3
91-100	17	4.6
Over 100	2	0.6
TOTAL	366	100.0

Prior to their current incarceration, the majority of the parolees had at least one prior arrest (as an adult.) Of those with prior arrests, most had at least one felony arrest. Of those with felony arrests, the number of arrests ranged from 1 to 26 with a median of 4. Of those with non-felony arrests, the number ranged from 1 to 57 with a median of 3.

**TABLE 9
PRIOR ARRESTS**

Type of Arrest	Number	Percent
No prior arrests	22	6.0
At least one prior arrest	344	94.0
Prior arrests for felonies only - (45)		
Prior arrests for non-felonies only - (26)		
Prior arrests for both felonies & non-felonies - (273)		
TOTAL	366	100.0

Of the 318 parolees with prior felony arrests, 73.9 percent had felony convictions. Of the 299 parolees with prior non-felony arrests, 83.6 percent had non-felony convictions.

**TABLE 10
PRIOR CONVICTIONS**

Convictions	Number	Percent
No prior convictions	54	14.8
At least one prior conviction	312	85.2
Prior convictions for felonies only - (62)		
Prior convictions for non-felonies only - (77)		
Prior convictions for both felonies and non-felonies - (173)		
TOTAL	366	100.0

A little over one-half of the parolees, 56.6 percent, were arrested at least once while a juvenile. One parolee was a juvenile when admitted to prison.

**TABLE 11
PRIOR ARRESTS AS JUVENILES**

Juvenile Arrests	Number	Percent
No Arrests	111	30.3
At least 1	207	56.6
Not Available	48	13.1
TOTAL	366	100.0

Table 12 shows that almost one-half of the parolees, 43.7 percent, had neither a probation nor a prison sentence prior to their current incarceration. A larger percentage of parolees were never sentenced to prison prior to their current incarceration. (See Table 13.)

**TABLE 12
PRIOR PROBATION OR PRISON SENTENCES**

Sentence	Number	Percent
No previous probation or prison sentence	160	43.7
Prior prison sentence only	39	10.7
Prior probation sentence only	120	32.8
Had both probation and prison sentences	47	12.8
TOTAL	366	100.0

**TABLE 13
PRIOR PROBATION OR PRISON SENTENCES
BY SENTENCE TYPE**

Sentence Type	Number	Percent
Probation:		
Never previously sentenced to probation	198	54.1
Once previously	110	30.1
Twice previously	44	12.0
3 or more times	13	3.6
Not available	1	0.3
TOTAL	366	100.0
Prison:		
Never previously sentenced to prison	279	76.2
Once previously	58	15.8
Twice previously	13	3.6
3 or more times	15	4.1
Not available	1	0.3
TOTAL	366	100.0

For the majority of the parolees, 86.1 percent, their current parole is their only parole experience.

**TABLE 14
PRIOR PAROLE**

Parole	Number	Percent
Never previously placed on parole	315	86.1
Once previously	26	7.1
Twice previously	9	2.5
3 or more times	10	2.7
Not available	6	1.6
TOTAL	366	100.0

RELEASE AND POST-RELEASE

Slightly more than one-half of the parolees, 51.4 percent, were age 30 or younger when released from prison. The median age at release was 30 years. The average age was 32 years.

**TABLE 15
AGE AT RELEASE**

Age	Number	Percent
18-20	2	0.5
21-25	84	23.0
26-30	102	27.9
31-35	70	19.1
36-40	50	13.7
Over 40	58	15.8
TOTAL	366	100.0

Of the 366 parolees, a total of 217 parolees or 59.3 percent were rearrested. Most of those rearrested, were rearrested while on parole. Of the 217 parolees with rearrest records, 169 were rearrested while on parole.

**TABLE 16
REARRESTS**

Rearrests	Number	Percent
No rearrests	149	40.7
Rearrested while on parole	169	46.2
Rearrested after discharged	48	13.1
TOTAL	366	100.0

Of the 217 parolees with rearrest records, slightly over one-half, 51.2 percent, were rearrested within one year. Three-fourths, 76.0 percent, were rearrested within two years. For those rearrested, the median length of time from release to rearrest was 357 days or almost one year. The average length of time was 267 days or approximately 9 months.

**TABLE 17
TIME FROM RELEASE TO REARREST**

Time (Days)	Number	Percent
1-30	8	3.7
31-60	15	6.9
61-90	14	6.5
91-180	31	14.3
181-365 (1 Year)	43	19.8
366-730 (2 Years)	54	24.9
Over 2 years	52	24.0
TOTAL	217	100.0

**FIGURE 1
TIME FROM RELEASE TO REARREST**

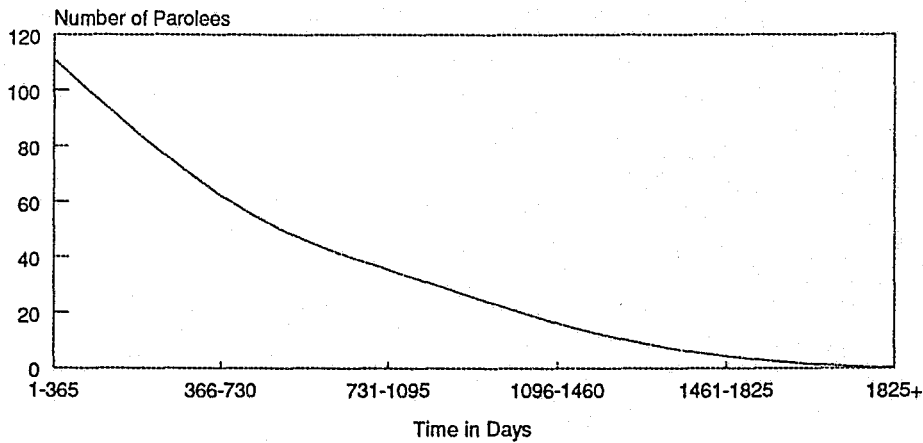


Table 18 presents the first rearrest charge. In the table, non-offenses refer to arrests for violations or revocations. Table 19 presents the severity type of the offenses. If an offense has multiple severity types such as class A felony/misdemeanor, the higher severity was chosen.

Theft, promoting drugs, and DUI were among the most frequently reported rearrest crimes. The majority of the first rearrests were for non-felony crimes.

**TABLE 18
FIRST REARREST CHARGE**

Charge	Number	Percent
Murder	2	0.9
Negligent homicide	1	0.5
Assault	8	3.7
Terroristic threatening	3	1.4
Kidnapping	1	0.5
Rape	2	0.9
Sodomy	1	0.5
Other sex offenses	1	0.5
Robbery	9	4.1
Burglary	12	5.5
Theft	32	14.7
MVT	4	1.8
Failure to return vehicle	1	0.5
Forgery	3	1.4
Criminal trespass	5	2.3
Criminal property damage	4	1.8
Littering	4	1.8
Spouse abuse	8	3.7
Disorderly conduct	4	1.8
Harassment	3	1.4
Cruelty to animals	1	0.5
Weapon	4	1.8
Dangerous drugs	6	2.8
Other drugs	24	11.1
Intoxicating compounds	1	0.5
Imitation controlled substances	4	1.8
Liquor related	5	2.3
DUI	26	12.0
Traffic	4	1.8
Contempt of court	22	10.1
Non-offenses	12	5.5
TOTAL	217	100.0

**TABLE 19
FIRST REARREST CHARGE BY SEVERITY TYPE**

Charge Type	Number	Percent
Felony	62	28.6
Non-Felony	143	65.9
Non-offenses	12	5.5
TOTAL	217	100.0

Table 20 presents the most serious rearrest charge. Theft, promoting drugs, DUI, and robbery were the most frequently recorded offenses. In this table, the category of "Escape/prison contraband" represents cases where parole had been revoked or the parolee was reimprisoned for a new crime.

Of the 4 parolees arrested for murder, 2 were arrested while on parole and 2 were arrested after discharge from parole.

Of the 217 parolees rearrested, 51 or 23.5 percent were rearrested for the same type of offense that led to the current incarceration in this study.

Table 21 shows the severity type for the most serious rearrest charge. When compared to Table 18, Table 20 shows that for some parolees, their first rearrest was not their most serious. The number of felonies rose from 28.6 percent for the first rearrest to 51.2 percent for the most serious rearrest.

**TABLE 20
MOST SERIOUS REARREST CHARGE**

Charge	Number	Percent
Murder	4	1.8
Negligent homicide	1	0.5
Assault	11	5.1
Terroristic threatening	6	2.8
Unlawful imprisonment	1	0.5
Rape	3	1.4
Sodomy	1	0.5
Robbery	21	9.7

Continued on page 16.

**TABLE 20 (CONTINUED)
MOST SERIOUS REARREST CHARGE**

Charge	Number	Percent
Burglary	21	9.7
Theft	36	16.6
MVT	2	0.9
Failure to return vehicle	1	0.5
Forgery	2	0.9
Criminal trespass	2	0.9
Criminal property damage	3	1.4
Littering	3	1.4
Spouse abuse	8	3.7
Non-support	1	0.5
Harassment	1	0.5
Cruelty to animals	1	0.5
Weapon	8	3.7
Dangerous drugs	12	5.5
Other drugs	13	6.0
Intoxicating compounds	1	0.5
Controlled substances	2	0.9
Liquor related	1	0.5
DUI	26	12.0
Traffic	1	0.5
Contempt of court	13	6.0
Escape/Prison contraband	3	1.4
Non-offenses	8	3.7
TOTAL	217	100.0

**TABLE 21
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE BY SEVERITY TYPE**

Type	Number	Percent
Felony	111	51.2
Non-felony	98	45.2
Non-offenses	8	3.7
TOTAL	217	100.0

Of the 217 parolees with rearrests, 154 or 71.0 percent were found guilty or pled guilty. Of the 154, one-third or 35.7 percent were sentenced to prison. Almost one-half, 49.4 percent, were fined or received a sentence other than prison, jail, or probation.

**TABLE 22
DISPOSITION OF MOST SERIOUS CHARGE**

Disposition	Number	Percent
Guilty	154	71.0
Non-conviction or in-process	63	29.0
TOTAL	217	100.0

**TABLE 23
SENTENCE FOR NEW CONVICTION**

Sentence	Number	Percent
Prison	55	35.7
Felony probation (includes jail)	8	5.2
Jail	11	7.1
DAGP/CDS	2	1.3
Fine, restitution, comm. service, other	76	49.4
Awaiting sentence	1	0.6
Abscond	1	0.6
TOTAL	154	100.0

In terms of the total number of rearrests, more parolees were arrested for non-felonies than felonies. Likewise for convictions.

**TABLE 24
POST-RELEASE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Number of Felony Arrests	Number of Parolees	Percent
0	249	68.0
1	58	15.8
2	26	7.1
3	16	4.4
4-5	9	2.5
6-10	6	1.6
Over 10	2	0.5
TOTAL	366	100.0

Number of Non-felony Arrests	Number of Parolees	Percent
0	180	49.2
1	70	19.1
2	37	10.1
3	21	5.7
4-5	26	7.1
6-10	24	6.6
Over 10	10	2.2
TOTAL	366	100.0

Number of Felony Conv.	Number of Parolees	Percent
0	303	82.8
1	45	12.3
2	13	3.6
3	4	1.1
4-5	1	0.3
TOTAL	366	100.0

Number of Non-felony Conv.	Number of Parolees	Percent
0	247	67.5
1	61	16.7
2	23	6.3
3	16	4.4
4-5	12	3.3
6-10	5	1.4
Over 10	2	0.5
TOTAL	366	100.0

Of the 366 parolees, 117 violated conditions of their parole and were summoned for a parole hearing. The most frequently stated reason was the commission of a new offense or a new conviction. Table 25 presents the number of parolees who violated conditions of parole. For the parolees who violated conditions of parole, Table 26 shows the number of hearings held.

Table 27 presents the type of violation and the disposition of the hearing for the first technical violation. Table 28 presents similar information to Table 27 but for the most current technical violation. In Tables 27 and 28, other special conditions include items such as curfew violations, failing to make restitution, and entering restricted areas. The deferred action disposition means that the paroling authority either warned the parolee about complying with the special conditions in the future or is waiting for the outcome of court proceedings for new crimes before taking action.

**TABLE 25
TECHNICAL VIOLATION OF PAROLE**

Violations	Number	Percent
No violation	249	68.0
At least one	117	32.0
TOTAL	366	100.0

**TABLE 26
NUMBER OF VIOLATION HEARINGS**

Number of Violations	Number of Parolees	Percent
1	73	62.4
2	26	22.2
3	13	11.1
4	4	3.4
5	1	0.9
TOTAL	117	100.0

**TABLE 27
FIRST TECHNICAL VIOLATION**

Reason	Number	Percent
Failed to attend or make progress in a rehabilitation program	4	3.4
Tested positive for substance abuse, or under the influence of alcohol	4	3.4
Arrested or convicted of a new felony offense	40	34.2
Arrested or convicted of a new non-felony offense	18	15.4
Failed to report to the parole officer, whereabouts unknown	19	16.2
Failed to inform parole officer of a new arrest	1	0.9
Violated multiple special conditions of parole	7	6.0
Other special condition violations	24	20.5
TOTAL	117	100.0
Disposition	Number	Percent
The parole was revoked; the parolee serves a parole violation term	55	47.0
The parole was revoked; the parolee is reinstated with new special conditions	9	7.7
The parolee was found not guilty; parole continues	2	1.7
Deferred action on the violation	38	32.5
The parole was suspended pending the arrest of the parolee	13	11.1
TOTAL	117	100.0

**TABLE 28
MOST RECENT TECHNICAL VIOLATION**

Reason	Number	Percent
Failed to notify parole officer of address change	2	1.7
Failed to attend or make progress in a rehabilitation program	2	1.7
Tested positive for substance abuse, or under the influence of alcohol	5	4.3
Arrested or convicted of a new felony offense	42	35.9
Arrested or convicted of a new non-felony offense	20	17.1
Failed to report to the parole officer, whereabouts unknown	25	21.4
Failed to inform parole officer of a new arrest	1	0.9
Violated multiple special conditions of parole	10	8.5
Other special condition violations	10	8.5
TOTAL	117	100.0

Disposition	Number	Percent
The parole was revoked; the parolee serves a parole violation term	78	66.7
The parole was revoked; the parolee is reinstated with new special conditions	7	6.0
The parolee was found not guilty; parole continues	1	0.9
Deferred action on the violation	19	16.2
The parole was suspended pending the arrest of the parolee	12	10.3
TOTAL	117	100.0

Table 29 lists the reasons parole was revoked for the 78 parolees with revocations and parole violation terms. Close to two-thirds of the revocations were the result of the commission of new crimes.

**TABLE 29
REASON PAROLE WAS REVOKED**

Reason	Number	Percent
Arrested or convicted of new felony	36	46.2
Arrested or convicted of new non-felony	11	14.1
Technical violation	31	39.7
TOTAL	78	100.0

Table 30 presents the number of revocations. Parolees with more than one revocation were released on parole, had parole revoked, reimprisoned, and paroled again within the study period.

**TABLE 30
NUMBER OF REVOCATIONS**

Number of Revocations	Number of Parolees	Percent
1	63	80.8
2	13	16.7
3	1	1.3
4	1	1.3
TOTAL	78	100.0

Table 31 presents the status of the parolee at the end of the maximum term or at the study cut-off whichever occurred first. By the end of this study, 208 parolees or 56.8 percent, had been discharged from parole. Of the 208, 35 were convicted for new offenses and imprisoned. Those 35 offenders plus the 30 parolees who had parole revoked and were reimprisoned meant that 17.8 percent were back in prison when this study ended.

**TABLE 31
PAROLEE STATUS**

Status	Number	Percent
On parole on 12/31/88	112	30.6
Parole revoked; in prison on 12/31/88	30	8.2
Absconded	14	3.8
Paroled (turned over to Federal detainer)	2	0.5
Discharged		
Maximum term expired	153	41.8
Early discharge (terminal illness)	2	0.5
Early discharge	28	7.7
Discharged immediately after parole (No supervision)	17	4.6
Discharged (turned over to Federal detainer)	1	0.3
Died	7	1.9
TOTAL	366	100.0

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Socio-economic data were taken before incarceration and after release on parole. Before incarceration data were obtained from the pre-sentence investigation report. Childhood data were not captured. The post release information was obtained from HPA files.

Listed below is a general observation on an offender's socio-economic profile. The typical profile in the pre-sentence investigation report seemed to read as follows:

The offender's childhood was remarkable, comes from a broken home/family where the parents are divorced or separated and he is physically abused by the parents, he was raised by an outside member of the family, the offender had an extensive juvenile criminal arrest history and was frequently in the custody of a juvenile detention facility. The offender led a promiscuous life, had a common-law relationship that was often unstable with numerous partners, suffered financial hardship, had drug dependence and alcohol abuse habits, was usually unemployed, and had dependents born out of wedlock.

Before Incarceration

The majority of parolees, before incarceration, drank at least occasionally, or had had a drinking problem in the past. The similar is true for drug use. The term drug as used in this report also includes other controlled substances.

**TABLE 32
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE
BEFORE INCARCERATION**

Alcohol	Number	Percent
Drinks occasionally	135	36.9
Drinks frequently	127	34.7
Does not drink or no drinking problem at present	61	16.7
Had a drinking problem but not currently	14	3.8
Not available	29	7.9
TOTAL	366	100.0

Drug	Number	Percent
Used drugs occasionally	67	18.3
Used drugs frequently	162	44.3
Does not have a drug habit	87	23.8
Had a drug problem but not currently	28	7.7
Not available	22	6.0
TOTAL	366	100.0

The majority of the parolees, 55.2 percent, did not graduate from high school. Lack of education may have also affected the parolees' employment status. A little over one-half were employed less than one-half of the time or were sporadically employed.

**TABLE 33
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS
BEFORE INCARCERATION**

Education Status	Number	Percent
High school diploma or GED certificate	107	29.2
Post high school - some college	41	11.2
Post high school - vocational training	15	4.1
Did not graduate from high school	193	52.7
Did not graduate - had vocational training	9	2.5
Not available	1	0.3
TOTAL	366	100.0

Employment Status	Number	Percent
Unemployed but made attempts to seek work	5	1.4
Unemployed, never made attempt to seek work	18	4.9
Unemployed, not required (retired, student, etc.)	17	4.6
Employed at least one-half of the time	136	37.2
Employed less than one-half of the time, sporadically employed	185	50.5
Not available	5	1.4
TOTAL	366	100.0

A little over one-half of the parolees had a relatively stable relationship or had satisfactory social support from family or friends. Very few had strong marital relationships or excellent family or friend support, 1.6 percent. Most of parolees however, had a "suitable" living arrangement, 73.5 percent.

**TABLE 34
MARITAL/FAMILY RELATIONSHIP AND LIVING ARRANGEMENT
BEFORE INCARCERATION**

Relationship	Number	Percent
Strong relationship/excellent social support	6	1.6
Relatively stable rel./satis. social support	206	56.3
Occasional disorganization or stress	97	26.5
Frequent disorganization or stress	23	6.3
Not available	34	9.3
TOTAL	366	100.0

Living Arrangement	Number	Percent
Suitable	269	73.5
Unsuitable, nomadic lifestyle	58	15.8
Not available	39	10.7
TOTAL	366	100.0

Almost all of the parolees, 88.5 percent, were in relatively sound health. Very few parolees had an illness that required frequent medical attention or a physical handicap.

**TABLE 35
PHYSICAL HEALTH
BEFORE INCARCERATION**

Health	Number	Percent
Sound physical health	324	88.5
Has illness or handicap	41	11.2
Not available	1	0.3
TOTAL	366	100.0

After Release

After release from prison onto parole, many of the parolees seemed to have modified their alcohol drinking habits. The number of occasional and frequent drinkers declined. Prior to incarceration approximately 70 percent were occasional or frequent drinkers. That percentage dropped to a little over 25 percent after release. Drug use also declined from about 60 percent to 25 percent.

**TABLE 36
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE
AFTER RELEASE**

Alcohol	Number	Percent
Drinks occasionally	34	9.3
Drinks frequently	63	17.2
Does not drink or no drinking problem at present	167	45.6
Had a drinking problem but not currently	62	16.9
Not available	40	10.9
TOTAL	366	100.0

Drug	Number	Percent
Used drugs occasionally	29	7.93
Used drugs frequently	64	17.5
Does not have a drug habit	139	38.0
Had a drug problem but not currently	102	27.9
Not available	32	8.7
TOTAL	366	100.0

The number of parolees usually employed (at least 50 percent of the time) increased after release. Almost two-thirds were usually employed. Oftentimes employment is a condition of parole.

**TABLE 37
EMPLOYMENT STATUS
AFTER RELEASE**

Employment Status	Number	Percent
Unemployed but made attempts to seek work	10	2.7
Unemployed, never made attempt to seek work	6	1.6
Unemployed, not required (retired, student, etc.)	29	7.9
Employed at least one-half of the time	232	63.4
Employed less than one-half of the time, sporadically employed	64	17.5
Not available	25	6.8
TOTAL	366	100.0

Marital/family relationships and living arrangements remained about the same after release as before incarceration. If these factors influence rearrests, then the same stresses that existed before incarceration may have the same influences on criminal activity after release.

**TABLE 38
MARITAL/FAMILY RELATIONSHIP AND LIVING ARRANGEMENT
AFTER RELEASE**

Relationship	Number	Percent
Strong relationship/excellent social support	17	4.6
Relatively stable rel./satis. social support	193	52.7
Occasional disorganization or stress	95	26.0
Frequent disorganization or stress	31	8.5
Not available	30	8.2
TOTAL	366	100.0

Living Arrangement	Number	Percent
Suitable	279	76.2
Unsuitable, nomadic lifestyle	60	16.4
Not available	27	7.4
TOTAL	366	100.0

STATISTICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The study examined the relationship between selected variables, such as age, and rearrests. In this section, parolees who were rearrested are referred to as "recidivists" and the parolees who were not rearrested are referred to as "non-recidivists" Two tests of significance were used to test relationships; T-Test (t) for quantitative variables and Chi-square (χ^2) for qualitative variables. Chi-square for 2x2 tables was adjusted for continuity.

A significant result means that a variable is statistically related to rearrests, that there is a difference between recidivists and non-recidivists with respect to that variable, and that the difference is unlikely to be due to chance. The level of significance was set at 0.05.

Age at admission to prison for the current incarceration was a significant variable ($t=3.3639$ $p=0.0009$). The recidivists were, on the average, younger when admitted than the non-recidivists. The average age of rearrested parolees was 27 years. The average age of those not rearrested was 30 years.

Age at release was also a statistically significant variable ($t=3.1132$ $p=0.0020$). The average age of the recidivist was 31 years while the average age of the non-recidivist was 34 years.

Time served in prison was not statistically significant ($t=-1.0773$ $p=0.2821$). Although rearrested parolees, on the average, spent more time in prison than those with no rearrests, 1,430 days compared to 1,301 days, the difference was not significant.

The percentage of time served in prison (computed by dividing the time served by the maximum sentence) was significant ($t=-5.0107$ $p=0.0000$). Parolees with rearrests served a higher proportion of their maximum sentence than parolees with no rearrests, 51.4 percent as compared to 37.5 percent.

The most serious conviction charge that led to the current incarceration was also tested against rearrests. Two different groupings of two categories were tested. The first was "violent versus non-violent" and the second was "drug versus non-drug".

Parolees incarcerated for violent crimes were less likely to be rearrested than parolees incarcerated for other crimes ($\chi^2=6.304$ $p=0.012$). Violent crimes included homicide, manslaughter, assaults (aggravated and simple), rape, sodomy, and robbery. Other crimes included everything else. Of those incarcerated for violent crimes, 49.6 percent were rearrested. Of those incarcerated for other crimes, 64.0 percent were rearrested. The difference was significant.

Parolees incarcerated for drug crimes (HRS statutes 741-1241 to 741-1249) were less likely to be rearrested than parolees arrested for other crimes ($\chi^2=4.481$ $p=0.034$). Of parolees incarcerated for drug crimes, 45.5 percent were rearrested while for the other parolees, 61.7 percent were rearrested. The difference was significant.

Prior Criminal History

The prior criminal history variables (arrests, convictions, and sentences before the current incarceration) were also tested against rearrests. All the prior arrests and conviction variables were statistically significant. Parolees with rearrests had significantly more prior felony arrests, on the average, than parolees with no rearrests ($t=-3.6731$ $p=0.0003$). They also had more

felony convictions ($t=-2.6444$ $p=0.0085$), more non-felony arrests ($t=-5.5960$ $p=0.0001$), and more non-felony convictions ($t=-5.1485$ $p=0.0001$). Of the prior sentence variables, only the prior probation variable was significant ($t=-2.1796$ $p=0.0299$).

The table below shows the average number of prior arrests and convictions.

**TABLE 39
PRIOR CRIMINAL HISTORY AND REARRESTS**

Criminal History	Parolees with Rearrests	Parolees without Rearrests
Felony arrests average	5.5	3.7
Felony convictions average	2.1	1.4
Non-felony arrests average	6.7	3.3
Non-felony convictions average	3.8	1.8

The above section on criminal history presented results of tests on whether or not there were differences in the number of prior arrests, convictions, and type of sentences between recidivists and non-recidivists. Those variables were further examined by categorizing the numbers into two groups, "none" and "at least one" for each variable. This procedure allowed the variable to be used as a general predictor of recidivism.

Prior felony convictions, prior non-felony arrests and convictions, and prior probation and prison sentences were significant variables. Parolees with at least one prior felony conviction, non-felony arrest, non-felony conviction, prison sentence or probation sentence were more likely to be rearrested than those with no previous criminal history.

Arrests as a juvenile was not a significant variable ($\chi^2=2.249$ $p=0.134$, with 13% of the data missing). Parolees without juvenile criminal records were as likely to be rearrested as those with juvenile records. Missing data were excluded.

Socio-Economic

Socio-economic variables were also examined in relation to rearrest. The data for each variable were collapsed into two categories to make the analysis more meaningful. (This resulted in larger numbers per cell.) Missing data were excluded from the analysis. The socio-economic variables used in this section were the variables measured before incarceration.

For the alcohol and drug use variables, the parolees were divided into those who had no history of drinking or drug use problems and those who had a problem or currently drinks or uses drugs. Both variables were statistically significant. For alcohol use, 47.5 percent who had no problem were rearrested as compared to 62.3 percent who had a problem or currently drink

($\chi^2=3.940$ $p=0.047$). For drug use, 50.6 percent who had no problem were rearrested as compared to 63.4 percent who had or currently use drugs ($\chi^2=3.958$ $p=0.047$).

Education was also a significant variable. Parolees who graduated from high school were less likely to be rearrested than those who did not graduate ($\chi^2=8.266$ $p=0.004$). Of parolees who graduated from high school, 50.9 percent were rearrested while 66.3 of those who did not graduate were rearrested.

Employment status seemed to be an influence on rearrests. Parolees who sought employment or were employed at least one-half of the time were less likely to be rearrested than those who did not seek work, were not required to seek work, or were sporadically employed ($\chi^2=26.250$ $p=0.000$). Of the the parolees who sought work or were employed, 43.3 percent were rearrested as compared to 70.9 percent of the other group.

Two other socio-economic variables, living arrangement and marital relationship (or social support), were also significant. Parolees living in a suitable arrangement were less likely to be rearrested ($\chi^2=8.843$ $p=0.003$, with 11% of the data missing). Offenders in strong or stable relationships were also less likely to be rearrested.

One socio-economic variable, physical health, was not significant. Parolees in good health were neither more nor less likely to be rearrested than parolees with health problems ($\chi^2=0.000$ $p=1.000$).

Socio-economic data collected after release from prison were also examined to measure their influence on rearrests. All variables that were significant before incarceration were still significant after release. The physical health variable was still not significant.

Type of Release

Type of release was not a significant variable ($\chi^2=0.000$ $p=1.000$). Parolees released because of the consent agreement were neither more nor less likely to be rearrested. Of the regular parolees, 59.4 percent were rearrested. Of the consent decree parolees, 58.3 percent were rearrested.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

This report presented information on 366 prisoners released on parole in 1984 and 1985. Included in this population were prisoners released primarily because of an agreement with the ACLU. This report also identified the characteristics that may be helpful in predicting rearrests.

Of the 366 parolees, 46 percent were first rearrested while on parole and 13 percent were first rearrested after discharge from parole. The most serious first rearrest charge was most often a non-felony. However, when all rearrests were examined, a little more than one-half of the recidivists were arrested for felonies. Parolees first rearrested for non-felony crimes need to be closely monitored as some will commit more serious crimes later.

Of the parolees who were rearrested, about three-fourths or 76 percent were rearrested within two years. Two years seems to be a critical point.

The overall average age of prisoners released on parole was 32 years. Age at release was a statistically significant variable associated with recidivism. The younger the parolee, the higher the likelihood of a rearrest. The average age of the recidivist was 31 years while the average age of the non-recidivist was 34 years.

The overall average stay in prison was a little over 3 years and 9 months (1,378 days). The average stay for recidivists was 1,430 days. The average stay for non-recidivists was 1,301 days. Although recidivists spent more time in prison, this difference was not significant. Also, prisoners released early because of the consent agreement were not more likely to be rearrested than the "regular" parolees. While it appears that keeping prisoners in prison for longer periods may not necessarily reduce the likelihood of rearrests, other factors must be considered. A longer stay would mean that the prisoner would be older when released and during the period of stay, the prisoner would be out of "circulation" with less opportunity to commit new crimes.

Parolees incarcerated for violent crimes were less likely to be rearrested than parolees incarcerated for other crimes. Also, parolees incarcerated for drug crimes were less likely to be rearrested than parolees incarcerated for other crimes. Although parolees arrested for drug crimes were less likely to be rearrested, parolees with drug habits, past or present, were more likely to be rearrested. It appears that the drug habit itself is the important factor in recidivism and not the fact that the parolee was arrested for a drug crime.

All socio-economic variables except physical health were significantly related to recidivism. The more unstable the home life, the higher the likelihood of rearrests. Lack of education and sporadic employment also increased the likelihood that a parolee will commit new crimes. Employment and education may themselves be related. It may be more difficult for a parolee to obtain a good job without adequate education. Education should be a focus for the prisoner both in prison and out on parole.

Drinking and drug problems increased the likelihood of recidivism. Fortunately, the number of prisoners with drinking and/or drug problems decreased after release when compared to the period before incarceration. Drinking and drug programs should continue to be emphasized.

This report is not an evaluation of parole but an aid in understanding the recidivist, which may be helpful when designing parole programs. A report such as this may be helpful when-

ever changes in programs occur. As such, it would be very useful to compare the group of parolees studied in this report with the group studied in a previous report done by the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center.¹² In the previous report, prisoners released on parole in 1978 and 1979 were examined.

NOTES

1. Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 353-63.
2. HRS section 353-61.
3. HRS section 353-68(c).
4. HRS section 353-65.
5. For prisoners serving life terms without the possibility of parole, at the end of 20 years, the HPA is required to review the case. They may decide to recommend to the governor to commute the sentence to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.
6. HRS sections 353-68 and 353-66.
7. HRS section 353-70.
8. The subjects of this study are referred to as "parolees". The term is used even when the parolee had been discharged from parole.
9. The Adult Probation Division writes the pre-sentence investigation report for the First Circuit. The Corrections Division writes the correctional status report. Before 1987, Corrections was a division of the Department of Social Services and Housing.
10. Or, in the alternative, the offense with the latest maximum sentence expiration date.
11. During late 1985, the Hawaii Paroling Authority was asked to determine which prisoners were candidates for early parole release. This action was undertaken to comply with a court order to reduce the prison population. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) initiated the effort to reduce the prison population. The HPA granted early parole to 31 offenders to lower the prison population to the ceiling limit.

12. Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, *Re-Arrest After Release From Prison, CYs 1978-1979*, August 1984, (Research and Statistics Report RS02A).