



*Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit*  
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**HOPE Probation Program (Hawaii)**

**Website:** <http://www.hopeprobation.org/>  
<http://www.hopeprobation.org/article-hope-for-reform-by-angela-hawken>

**Program Start Date:** 2004

**Evaluation/Research:**

<http://www.hopeprobation.org/about/program-evaluation-results>  
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/229023.pdf>  
<http://www.hopeprobation.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/HOPE-Probation-final.pdf>

**Information:** In 2004, First Circuit Judge Steven Alm launched a pilot program to reduce probation violations by drug offenders and others at high risk of recidivism. This high-intensity supervision program, called HOPE Probation (Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement), is the first and only of its kind in the nation. Probationers in HOPE Probation receive swift, predictable, and immediate sanctions – typically resulting in several days in jail – for each detected violation, such as detected drug use or missed appointments with a probation officer.

In HOPE Probation, defendants are clearly warned that if they violate the rules, they go to jail. Defendants are required to call a hotline each weekday morning to find out if they must take a drug test that day. Random drug testing occurs at least once a week for the first two months. If probationers test positive, they are arrested immediately. If they fail to appear for the test or violate other terms of probation, warrants for their arrest are issued immediately. Once they are apprehended, a probation modification hearing is held two days later, and violators are typically sentenced to a short jail term. The jail time may increase for subsequent violations and repeat offenders are often ordered into residential treatment.

Evaluation results indicate that the program is highly successful at reducing drug use, reporting failure, and new offenses, even among difficult populations such as methamphetamine abusers and domestic violence offenders.