
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that former inmates who
2 are gainfully employed are less likely to re-offend and have a
3 greater chance of becoming upstanding citizens.

4 The legislature further finds that ninety-five percent of
5 inmates will eventually be released from prison and that it is
6 in the best interest of the State to facilitate the reentry of
7 former inmates into society by providing opportunities for
8 gainful employment.

9 The Hawaii correctional industries program employs several
10 hundred inmates every year in print, furniture, canteen, and
11 sewing shops that are located within correctional facilities as
12 well as through outside work-lines that clean and maintain
13 highways and byways. In this vocational rehabilitation program,
14 former inmates who excelled in the program have great potential
15 to serve as peer mentors and role models to the current inmates
16 participating in the program.



1 The purpose of this Act is to assist former inmates as they
2 reenter society and current inmates pursuing vocational
3 rehabilitation by establishing a three-year pilot project within
4 the department of public safety to authorize the administrator
5 of the Hawaii correctional industries program, in consultation
6 with the director of public safety, to provide full-time
7 equivalent employment in the Hawaii correctional industries
8 program to up to five former inmates who meet eligibility
9 criteria.

10 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
11 of public safety a three-year pilot project to be known as the
12 correctional industries former inmate employment pilot project.
13 The administrator of the Hawaii correctional industries program,
14 notwithstanding any laws to the contrary and in consultation
15 with the director of public safety, shall provide full-time
16 equivalent employment with the Hawaii correctional industries
17 program for up to five former inmates who meet eligibility
18 criteria developed by the director of public safety. The
19 department of public safety shall provide oversight of the pilot
20 project.

21 (b) The pilot project shall:



- 1 (1) Provide the former inmates an opportunity for career
2 advancement and necessary training and job skills so
3 they may become economically self-sufficient and
4 productive members of society;
- 5 (2) Provide for the safety of the former inmates, staff,
6 and the community;
- 7 (3) Be self-funded by the Hawaii correctional industries
8 program;
- 9 (4) Pay the former inmates a fair wage comparable to wages
10 for similar work within the private sector; and
- 11 (5) Serve the purposes of the Hawaii correctional
12 industries program pursuant to section 354D-1, Hawaii
13 Revised Statutes.
- 14 (c) The department of public safety shall evaluate the
15 effectiveness of the pilot project annually. The evaluation
16 shall include:
- 17 (1) Findings as to whether the former inmates employed in
18 the pilot project received fair and adequate wages,
19 showed lower recidivism rates, and had reduced contact
20 with the criminal justice system;



1 (2) Findings as to whether the pilot project helped
2 achieve the purposes of the Hawaii correctional
3 industries program pursuant to section 354D-1, Hawaii
4 Revised Statutes; and

5 (3) Any other data and analysis the department of public
6 safety deems necessary.

7 (d) The department of public safety shall request that the
8 service providers that work directly with the former inmates in
9 the pilot project collect and submit data, as determined by the
10 department of public safety, on the inmates regarding the
11 conduct and efficacy of the pilot project to the department of
12 public safety every six months for evaluation purposes for the
13 duration of the pilot project and twelve months after the pilot
14 project ends.

15 (e) The department of public safety shall submit an annual
16 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
17 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
18 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019,
19 2020, and 2021.

20 (f) The pilot project shall cease on July 1, 2021.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Hawaii Correctional Industries; Pilot Project; Former Inmate
Employment

Description:

Establishes a three-year Correctional Industries Former Inmate
Employment Pilot Project within the Department of Public Safety
to assist former inmates as they reenter society. Effective
7/1/2030. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

