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



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 correctional industries program, in consultation with the  
6 director of public safety, to provide full-time equivalent  
7 employment in the Hawaii correctional industries program to up  
8 to five former inmates who meet eligibility criteria.

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

19           (b) The pilot project shall:

20           (1) Provide the former inmates an opportunity for career  
21           advancement and necessary training and job skills so



1           they may become economically self-sufficient and  
2           productive members of society;

3           (2) Provide for the safety of the former inmates, staff,  
4           and the community;

5           (3) Be self-funded by Hawaii correctional industries;

6           (4) Pay for the former inmates a fair wage comparable to  
7           wages for similar work within the private sector; and

8           (5) Serve the purposes of the correctional industries  
9           program pursuant to section 354D-1, Hawaii Revised  
10          Statutes.

11          (c) The department of public safety shall evaluate the  
12          effectiveness of the pilot project annually. The evaluation  
13          shall include:

14          (1) Findings as to whether the former inmates employed in  
15          the pilot project received fair and adequate wages,  
16          showed lower recidivism rates, and had reduced contact  
17          with the criminal justice system;

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



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

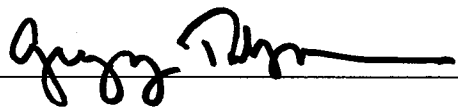
3 (d) Data on the conduct and efficacy of the pilot project  
4 shall be collected by service providers that work directly with  
5 former inmates and shall be submitted to the department of  
6 public safety every six months for evaluation purposes for the  
7 duration of the pilot project and twelve months after it ends.

8 (e) The department of public safety shall submit an annual  
9 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
10 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
11 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019,  
12 2020, and 2021.

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

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:   
JAN 23 2018



# H.B. NO. 2454

**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.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

