

JAN 23 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRISONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's prison
2 system houses many more inmates than it was designed to
3 accommodate. Hawaii has a population of approximately five
4 thousand six hundred inmates, costing the State about \$52,000
5 per inmate per year. One reason the prison system is
6 overburdened is that 49.6 per cent of convicted felons return to
7 prison within one year of their release. However, forty-three
8 per cent of people who seek and attain education in prison are
9 less likely to return. Reducing recidivism by ten inmates would
10 save the State about \$520,000 annually.

11 The legislature further finds that in order to reduce
12 recidivism, several states have established programs that
13 include training and mentoring to give inmates an opportunity to
14 learn entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business skills
15 that will facilitate their reentry into society. The Darden
16 School of Business and the University of Virginia has partnered
17 with the Dillwyn Correctional Center to teach eligible and



1 willing inmate students business skills to reduce recidivism.
2 Recidivism rates in Virginia are currently about twenty-three
3 per cent while the rate is seventy per cent nationally. Similar
4 programs have been established in other states such as the
5 District of Columbia through the Georgetown University McDonough
6 School of Business and New York through Columbia Business
7 School. An initial investment in this program has potential for
8 enormous cost savings for the State.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish a four-year pilot
10 program in Hawaii to reduce recidivism by providing inmates with
11 the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce and appropriate
12 funds for the program. This education program will focus on
13 business, financial, and entrepreneurial education to set a
14 foundation for individuals in prison to succeed after release.
15 This program can be scalable, beginning with a pilot cohort of
16 individuals with potential to expand.

17 SECTION 2. (a) There is created within the department of
18 public safety a working group to contract with an educational
19 institution to establish a business, entrepreneurial, and
20 financial literacy program focused on giving incarcerated
21 students access to quality business education.



1 (b) The department of public safety shall coordinate with
 2 an accredited institution of higher education to work with a
 3 program designed to reduce recidivism by providing educational
 4 opportunities to provide inmates with programs developed to
 5 reduce recidivism by teaching inmates business and
 6 entrepreneurial skills.

7 (c) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,
 8 2024.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
 12 pilot program established pursuant to this Act.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 14 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.
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INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names]
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S.B. NO. 3126

Report Title:

Department of Public Safety; Prisons; Recidivism; Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a four-year pilot program to reduce recidivism through educational programs and initiatives. Appropriates funds.

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