
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a civil lawsuit in
2 federal court alleged that a group of women at the women's
3 community correctional center were sexually assaulted at least
4 fifty-three times from 2013 to 2016. A similar case, *Smith v.*
5 *State of Hawaii*, resulted in a \$100,000 settlement, with \$50,000
6 coming from the State and another \$50,000 coming from the guard
7 who pled guilty. These lawsuits pointed specifically to the
8 lack of cameras in the correctional center's control rooms,
9 where a majority of the sexual assault allegedly occurred.
10 According to court documents, in some cases, staff offered food,
11 makeup, crystal meth, and special privileges to inmates in
12 return for compliance with sexual demands and punishments for
13 noncompliance. Any sexual contact between an inmate and staff
14 is a felony under existing law because prisoners cannot legally
15 give consent.

16 The legislature further finds that additional cameras in
17 control rooms and body cameras for all guards would help deter



1 sexual assaults and contraband, thereby building a defense
2 against future lawsuits and protecting inmates from rogue
3 guards.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for:

5 (1) The purchase and installation of digital cameras in
6 all guard control rooms at state correctional
7 facilities; and

8 (2) The purchase of body cameras for guards to wear while
9 on duty at state correctional facilities.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
14 year 2024-2025 to purchase and install digital cameras in all
15 guard control rooms at state correctional facilities and to
16 purchase body cameras for guards to wear while on duty at state
17 correctional facilities.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. On January 1, 2024, all responsibilities and
21 appropriations under this Act shall transfer from the department



1 of public safety to the department of corrections and
2 rehabilitation, as established by Act 278, Session Laws of
3 Hawaii 2022.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

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Report Title:

DPS; Control Rooms; Cameras; Body Cameras; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for purchasing digital cameras for all guard control rooms at state correctional facilities and body cameras for guards to wear while on duty at state correctional facilities. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

