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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, given the problems  
2 associated with re-entry as well as the high rate of recidivism  
3 among the former inmate population, programs that effectively  
4 assist the transition of former inmates from prison to the  
5 community are critical. Once released from prison, a former  
6 inmate faces such issues as workplace restrictions, housing  
7 restrictions, as well as the many informal restrictions as a  
8 result of prejudice against former offenders.

9           The legislature further finds that a person's stay in a  
10 jail or prison costs society from \$70 to \$400 per day, depending  
11 upon the level of security measures involved. These costs can  
12 be dramatically reduced through the implementation of programs  
13 to assist these individuals' post-incarceration community  
14 integration, and education is the key for many former inmates.

15           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
16 department of education adult education program and the  
17 department of public safety to assist prison inmates in



1 successful reintegration into the community, so as to reduce  
2 recidivism and increase productivity in the community.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for  
6 the department of education adult education program to  
7 establish:

- 8 (1) Special schooling or programs to encourage and provide  
9 opportunities for inmates exiting prison to obtain a  
10 general education development diploma to increase an  
11 inmate's opportunities to obtain employment in the  
12 community;
- 13 (2) A special school or schools at appropriate locations  
14 to accomplish the general education development school  
15 initiative;
- 16 (3) A permanent, personalized educational and job  
17 preparation plan for parolees and other releases who  
18 express a desire for additional education to prepare  
19 for a gainful employment; and
- 20 (4) A voluntary data tracking system that is developed and  
21 maintained in conjunction with the department of



1 public safety to identify successful educational  
2 components.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for  
8 the department of public safety release programs to establish:

- 9 (1) Distance learning programs for inmates still  
10 incarcerated to facilitate educational opportunities;
- 11 (2) Programs, developed in conjunction with the department  
12 of education, to assist inmates with the continuation  
13 of educational plans and preparation for gainful  
14 employment upon release; and
- 15 (3) A voluntary data tracking system that is developed and  
16 maintained in conjunction with the department of  
17 education to identify successful educational  
18 components.

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

21 SECTION 4. The departments of education and public safety  
22 shall submit to the legislature a report on the establishment of

1 programs and systems required under this Act, including but not  
2 limited to data on inmates who continue with educational plans  
3 begun while incarcerated, successful and unsuccessful  
4 educational components, and any recommendations for successful  
5 inmate reintegration into the community, no later than twenty  
6 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Education; Prison Inmates

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of public safety and the department of education for adult education programs for prison inmates to assist in the transition into the community upon release. (SD1)

