

# SB 149

**Measure Title:**

RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

**Report Title:**

Corrections; Correctional Industries; Public Housing

**Description:**

Establishes a correctional industries work program to allow inmate work lines to rehabilitate existing state-owned low-income public housing units and grounds.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 149  
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair

AND

Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2009; 1:15Pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Senator Espero, Senator Sakamoto, and Members of the both Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the legislature's interest in the Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) program and your confidence in the program's ability to assist the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) with rehabilitating existing state-owned low-income housing units and grounds by using inmate work lines.

At present the HCI and the HPHA are already working cooperatively in using inmate work lines to develop and implement a plan to assist in rehabilitating 162 existing state-owned low-income housing units and grounds. These efforts have been on-going, and PSD does not see the need to codify this in statute. If is the legislature's intent to formalize the already existing working relationship between HCI and the HPHA, it would be more appropriate to do so via a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

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Both, PSD and the HPHA recognize the need to work together to benefit low-income housing residents, reduce to cost of rehabilitating the units and grounds, and to provide the inmates with gainful employment and marketable job skills. As we develop new revenue streams, it is our intent to possibly expand the inmate work lines currently being used in partnership with the HPHA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and to clarify our on-going efforts in this area.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2009

1:15 PM in Room 229

**SUPPORT SB 149 - RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES  
Allow Work Lines To Rehabilitate Public Housing Units**

Aloha Chair Espero and Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees!

My name is Carrie Ann Shiota and I offer my strong support for SB 149. As a former deputy public defender and staff member of a re-entry program in Hawai'i, I have worked with individuals to successful transition into the community after prison.

SB 149 establishes a correctional industries work program to allow inmate work lines to rehabilitate existing state owned low-income public housing units and grounds.

Dr. Shadd Maruna, a noted criminal justice scholar points out in *Making Good: How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild their Lives*, that providing volunteer opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons facilitates reform and "desistance," the means by which one desists from crime and drug use and leads a productive life. Rather than focusing on individuals' defects and criminal risk levels based on instruments, his research demonstrates that in order to abstain from crime, ex-offenders need to make sense of their lives.

My own personal experience working with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons on community service projects through MEO's BEST Reintegration validates Dr. Maruna's ground breaking work. When working together to build homes with Habitat Humanity, performing hula for kupuna at Senior housing or toiling in the `aina to restore ancient archaeological sites and plant native vegetation, we all felt a sense of purpose and connection to our ancestors, our families and our community. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive - they felt good about themselves and wanted to do even more!

I support SB 149 because it will provide opportunities for incarcerated persons to use their time, talent and skills to rehabilitate housing for members of our community who are in most need. Men and women on these work lines will feel good about themselves for "giving back" to the community and in many instances, rehabilitating public housing that may benefit their own `ohana. I hope that you will support this important legislation that will ultimately save the State money and promotes a practice that facilitates reform and redemption!

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 149.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shiota, Esq.

Wailuku, Hawai'i

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