

---

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



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

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

21       (b) The pilot project shall:



- 1 (1) Provide the former inmates an opportunity for career  
2 advancement and necessary training and job skills so  
3 they may become economically self-sufficient and  
4 productive members of society;
- 5 (2) Provide for the safety of the former inmates, staff,  
6 and the community;
- 7 (3) Be self-funded by the Hawaii correctional industries  
8 program;
- 9 (4) Pay the former inmates a fair wage comparable to wages  
10 for similar work within the private sector; and
- 11 (5) Serve the purposes of the Hawaii correctional  
12 industries program pursuant to section 354D-1, Hawaii  
13 Revised Statutes.
- 14 (c) The department of public safety shall evaluate the  
15 effectiveness of the pilot project annually. The evaluation  
16 shall include:
- 17 (1) Findings as to whether the former inmates employed in  
18 the pilot project received fair and adequate wages,  
19 showed lower recidivism rates, and had reduced contact  
20 with the criminal justice system;



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

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

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

13 (e) The department of public safety shall submit an annual  
14 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
15 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
16 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019,  
17 2020, and 2021.

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**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. (HB2454 CD1)

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

