

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DEPT. COMM. NO. 272

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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No. _____

December 28, 2020

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-first State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-first State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

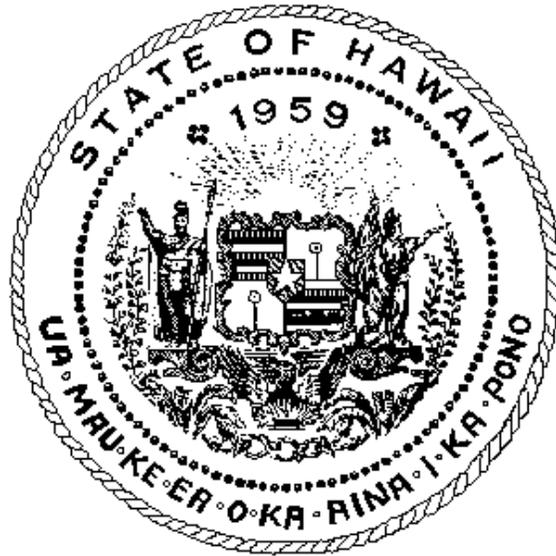
For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the **Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Pilot Project Report**, as required by Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: [https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Project Report.pdf](https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Correctional_Industries_Former_Inmate_Employment_Project_Report.pdf).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Otani".

Max N. Otani
Director

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REPORT TO THE 2021 LEGISLATURE**

**ACT 178, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2018
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES FORMER INMATE
EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROJECT**

**Department of Public Safety
Hawaii Correctional Industries
December 2020**

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Twenty-Ninth Legislature passed House Bill 2454, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, Conference Draft 1 (Act 178) with the purpose of establishing a three-year pilot project, within the Department of Public Safety (PSD), Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) program, to provide full-time equivalent employment for up to five qualified former inmates, in order to enhance their skills development, including serving as peer mentors and role models for current inmate participants.

The pilot project is intended to:

- 1) Provide former inmates with an opportunity for career advancement and necessary training and job skills so they may become economically self-sufficient and productive members of society;
- 2) Provide for the safety of the former inmates, staff, and the community;
- 3) Be self-funded by the Hawaii Correctional Industries program;
- 4) Pay former inmates fair wages comparable to wages for similar work within the private sector; and
- 5) Serve the purposes of the HCI program pursuant to Section 354D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Act 178 also requires PSD to evaluate the project annually and to submit a report of the project's effectiveness to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2019, 2020, and 2021, to include:

- 1) Findings as to whether the former inmates employed in the pilot project received fair and adequate wages, showed lower recidivism rates, and had reduced contact with the criminal justice system;
- 2) Findings as to whether the pilot project helped achieve the purposes of the HCI program pursuant to Section 354D-1, HRS; and
- 3) Any other data and analysis that PSD deems necessary.

PROGRESS

Hawaii Correctional Industries is a self-funded entity and it is focused on program expansion in order to generate profitable revenue to staff and operate this and other innovative projects. HCI forecasts that it will take three full-time employees to successfully oversee, track and lend aid to this project and its participants to assure success. Current revenue levels to sustain this project are forecasted to become available and stable in FY2022. Being that HCI's need to self-fund this program was overlooked when this law was enacted, we are proposing in this legislative session that this project be re-started July 1, 2021.