

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRISONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's prison  
2 system houses many more inmates than it was designed to  
3 accommodate. Hawaii has a population of approximately five  
4 thousand six hundred inmates, costing the State about \$52,000  
5 per inmate per year. One reason the prison system is  
6 overburdened is that 49.6 per cent of convicted felons return to  
7 prison within one year of their release. However, forty-three  
8 per cent of inmates who seek and attain education in prison are  
9 less likely to return. Accordingly, reducing recidivism by ten  
10 inmates will save the State approximately \$520,000 annually.

11           The legislature further finds that in order to reduce  
12 recidivism, several states have established programs that  
13 include training and mentoring to give inmates an opportunity to  
14 learn entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business skills  
15 that will facilitate their reentry into society. For example,  
16 the Darden School of Business and the University of Virginia  
17 have partnered with the Dillwyn Correctional Center to teach



1 eligible and willing inmate students business skills to reduce  
2 recidivism. Recidivism rates in Virginia are currently  
3 approximately twenty-three per cent, one of the lowest  
4 recidivism rates in the nation. Similar programs have been  
5 established in other jurisdictions, including the District of  
6 Columbia through the Georgetown University McDonough School of  
7 Business and New York through Columbia Business School. An  
8 initial investment in this type of program has potential for  
9 enormous cost savings for the State.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a working group to  
11 reduce recidivism by providing inmates with business and  
12 entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy education to  
13 establish a foundation for the inmates to succeed after their  
14 release from incarceration.

15 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
16 of public safety a working group that shall contract with an  
17 educational institution to establish a business,  
18 entrepreneurial, and financial literacy program focused on  
19 providing incarcerated students with access to a quality  
20 business education.



1 (b) The department of public safety shall coordinate with  
2 an accredited institution of higher education to create a  
3 program designed to reduce recidivism. The program shall focus  
4 on providing inmates with business and entrepreneurial skills  
5 and financial literacy education to establish a foundation for  
6 the inmates to succeed after their release from incarceration.

7 (c) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,  
8 2025.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
12 pilot program established pursuant to this Act.

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

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY: *D. P. Rivas*



# S.B. NO. 2532

**Report Title:**

PSD; Prisons; Recidivism; Working Group; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes within the Department of Public Safety a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates. Appropriates moneys.

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

