

JAN 21 2022

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.

16
INTRODUCED BY: 



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.

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