

JAN 21 2022

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is facing  
2 a shortage of social workers to help people in the State manage  
3 their mental health and cope with stressors in their everyday  
4 lives. This shortage is of concern as social workers already  
5 have full caseloads and may be unable to provide additional  
6 services, which may in turn intensify the need for help and  
7 increase burnout among social workers. The demand for social  
8 workers will likely continue to rise, especially during the  
9 COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, as individuals experiencing  
10 depression, anxiety, life transitions, and other mental health  
11 challenges will need social workers' support to address  
12 difficult or stressful life situations.

13           The legislature further finds that some nonviolent  
14 incarcerated individuals may have experienced the need for  
15 social services or may have firsthand experience receiving  
16 services from social workers that make them uniquely qualified  
17 to enter the field of social work as assistants after undergoing



1 training. The legislature also finds that to address the  
2 shortage of social workers and lack of social services in the  
3 State, providing social work training to nonviolent incarcerated  
4 individuals can help these individuals reintegrate into society  
5 once their period of incarceration is over.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and  
7 appropriate funds for the department of public safety, in  
8 collaboration with the department of human services, to develop  
9 and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent  
10 individuals in the area of social work.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 **"§353H- Incarcerated individuals; social work training**  
15 **program; established.** (a) The department shall develop and  
16 establish a program, in collaboration with the department of  
17 human services, to train incarcerated nonviolent misdemeanants  
18 and petty misdemeanants in the area of social work to become  
19 eligible for employment as assistants to licensed social workers  
20 or individuals on a pathway to be a licensed social worker.



1       (b) The department may coordinate with accredited  
2 institutions of higher education, private entities, and  
3 nonprofit organizations to provide training to participating  
4 individuals in the area of social work.

5       (c) The department shall establish rules pursuant to  
6 chapter 91 to implement this section."

7       SECTION 3. The department of public safety, in  
8 collaboration with the department of human services, shall  
9 prepare a report on their progress in developing and  
10 establishing the program pursuant to section 2 of this Act and  
11 shall submit the report to the legislature no later than twenty  
12 days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2023 and  
13 2024.

14       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
17 the development and establishment of a program to train certain  
18 incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work  
19 pursuant to this Act.

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



# S.B. NO. 2375

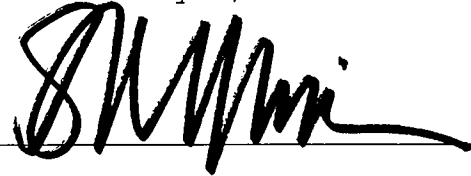
1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;

3 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

4

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. W. Miller", is written over a horizontal line that follows the text "INTRODUCED BY:". The signature is stylized and cursive.

# S.B. NO. 2375

**Report Title:**

Department of Public Safety; Department of Human Services;  
Social Work; Training; Incarcerated Nonviolent Individuals;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of public safety, in collaboration with the department of human services, to develop and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area of social work. Requires progress reports on the program to the legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

