

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INCARCERATED PERSONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that paying incarcerated
2 individuals meaningful wages leads to greatly reduced
3 recidivism, provides incentive not to break the law to protect
4 what the individuals have already earned, and allows a financial
5 means and foundation for successful rehabilitation and reentry
6 into society.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Require the department of corrections and
9 rehabilitation to establish a three-year pilot program
10 to employ and pay incarcerated individuals with fewer
11 than five years left on their sentence the minimum
12 wage;
- 13 (2) Require the department of corrections and
14 rehabilitation to submit annual reports to the
15 legislature for the duration of the program; and
- 16 (3) Appropriate funds.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
2 of corrections and rehabilitation a three-year pilot program to
3 employ and pay incarcerated individuals with fewer than five
4 years left on their sentence the minimum wage.

5 (b) The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall
6 contact participants annually for three years after the
7 participant's release from incarceration to evaluate:

8 (1) The participant's status, including current employment
9 and living situation; and

10 (2) Whether the financial assistance obtained from the
11 pilot program helped the participant successfully
12 reenter and reintegrate into society.

13 (c) The department of corrections and rehabilitation may
14 contract with a research organization or program manager to
15 carry out the purposes of this Act.

16 (d) The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall
17 submit a report of its findings and recommendations on the
18 progress and outcomes of the program, including any proposed
19 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
20 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2025, 2026, and
21 2027.



1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
11 ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and
14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
19 department of corrections and rehabilitation to establish a
20 three-year pilot program to employ and pay incarcerated



1 individuals with fewer than five years left on their sentence
2 the minimum wage.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 corrections and rehabilitation for the purposes of this Act;
5 provided that all moneys that are unencumbered as of June 30,
6 2027, shall lapse as of that date.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 2707

Report Title:

DCR; Pilot Program; Incarcerated Individuals; Minimum Wage; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a three-year pilot program to employ and pay incarcerated individuals with fewer than five years left on their sentence the minimum wage. Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to submit reports to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation.

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

