

H.B. NO. 2288

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

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

1        SECTION 1. The legislature finds that participation in  
2 treatment, work furlough, and other programs designed to assist  
3 committed persons with successful reintegration back into the  
4 community enhances rehabilitation and reduces recidivism. The  
5 legislature further finds that treatment programs address  
6 substance abuse and alcohol addiction, mental health illness,  
7 and deviant sexual behaviors; work furlough provides  
8 opportunities to secure employment, increase financial  
9 stability, resocialize with family and support networks, and  
10 secure housing prior to release; other programs (such as  
11 cognitive skills, parenting skills, anger management) enhance  
12 skills to manage daily living activities and challenging  
13 situations.

14        Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend section  
15 353-64, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include treatment, work  
16 furlough, and other programs designed for successful  
17 reintegration in addition to academic, vocation education, and  
18 prison industry programs.

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1 SECTION 2. Section 353-64, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       **"§353-64 Committed persons paroled.** Any committed person  
4 confined in any state correctional facility in execution of any  
5 sentence imposed upon the committed person, except in cases  
6 where the penalty of life imprisonment not subject to parole has  
7 been imposed, shall be subject to parole in the manner and form  
8 as set forth in this part; provided that the committed person  
9 shall be paroled in the county where the committed person had a  
10 permanent residence or occupation or employment prior to  
11 incarceration, unless:

12       (1) The committed person will reside in a county in which  
13           the population exceeds eight-hundred thousand persons;  
14       (2) The committed person will be released for immediate  
15           departure from the State; or  
16       (3) The committed person shall be released to the county  
17           in the State in which the committed person has the  
18           greatest family or community support, opportunities  
19           for employment, job training, education, treatment,  
20           and other social services, as determined by the Hawaii  
21           paroling authority; provided that to be considered for  
22           parole to another county in the State, the committed

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1                   person shall provide a written request to the  
2                   department not less than six months prior to the  
3                   expiration of the committed person's longest minimum  
4                   sentence.

5   Provided further that to be eligible for parole, the committed  
6   person, if the person is determined by the department to be  
7   suitable for participation, must have been a participant in an  
8   academic, treatment, vocational education, [or] including  
9   participation in work furlough if so recommended, prison  
10   industry [program] or other programs designed to assist the  
11   committed person with successful reintegration back into the  
12   community authorized by the department and must have been  
13   involved in or completed the [program] programs to the  
14   satisfaction of the department; and provided further that this  
15   precondition for parole shall not apply if the committed person  
16   is in a correctional facility where academic, treatment,  
17   vocational education, [and] work furlough, prison industry  
18   [programs], or other programs designed to assist the committed  
19   person with successful reintegration back into the community, or  
20   facilities are not available. A grant of parole shall not be  
21   subject to acceptance by the committed person [.] and program

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1 requirements can be waived at the discretion of the Hawaii  
2 paroling authority."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

**5** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6 INTRODUCED BY: Nadine K. Mathews  
7

8 BY REQUEST  
JAN 26 2026

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**Report Title:**  
Parole Eligibility

**Description:**

Amends section 353-64, HRS, to include participation in correctional programs for parole eligibility: (1) treatment (substance abuse, mental health, sex offender); (2) work furlough as part of vocational education; and (3) other programs designed to assist the committed person with successful reintegration back into the community; all of which are in the scope of programs determined by Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Receiving and Diagnostic (RAD) assessments and recommended for parole eligibility.

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

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## JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Corrections and Rehabilitation

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

PURPOSE: To amend section 353-64, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to include participation in additional correctional programs for parole eligibility besides academic, vocation education, or prison industry programs.

MEANS: Amend section 353-64, HRS.

JUSTIFICATION: Section 353-64, HRS, requires a committed person to participate in academic, vocation education, or prison industry programs for parole eligibility. However, the statute does not specifically include treatment, work furlough, and other programs that are necessary to address criminogenic needs (risk factors), enhance parole suitability, and reduce recidivism.

Amending section 353-64, HRS, to include treatment, work furlough and other programs designed to assist committed persons in reintegrating back into the community will reduce recidivism and improve the safety of the community.

Impact on the public: This bill will improve community safety, reduce recidivism and incarceration expenditures, restore family and community ties, and reduce reliance on government assistance for public services.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The programs are operating in the correctional facilities. Hawaii Paroling Authority pre-parole officers and parole board members will continue to reinforce participation in programs recommended by the risk assessments for parole consideration.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: PSD 612 (Determinations).

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.