
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 five-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 five-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 2027, 2028, 2029,
21 2030, and 2031.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
4 department of corrections and rehabilitation to establish a
5 five-year pilot program to employ and pay incarcerated
6 individuals with fewer than five years left on their sentence
7 the minimum wage.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 corrections and rehabilitation for the purposes of this Act;
10 provided that all moneys that are unencumbered as of June 30,
11 2029, shall lapse as of that date.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 3038

Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a five-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. Makes an appropriation.

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