
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 offenders who
2 receive program and employment opportunities in prison prior to
3 being released back into the community have much greater chances
4 of not returning to prison. Inmates who receive these
5 opportunities while they are classified at the minimum or
6 community custody level are more likely to successfully return
7 to society and participate as productive, law-abiding citizens.

8 According to the department of public safety's 2004 annual
9 report, thirty-nine per cent of male inmates and forty-seven per
10 cent of female inmates are classified as minimum or community
11 custody. Based on the department's January 16, 2006, population
12 figures, this means that there are currently 2,459 inmates who
13 qualify for reintegration programs through educational,
14 substance abuse treatment, vocational training, employment
15 opportunities, and workline projects in the community.

16 The purpose of this Act is to encourage a programs approach
17 to inmate case management and develop more work opportunities
18 for inmates to benefit the community.



1 SECTION 2. The department of public safety shall adopt a
2 policy that mandates all inmates to participate in facility
3 programs, provided that medical and mental health concerns are
4 considered when waiving an inmate's participation. This
5 programs approach to case management shall be implemented as a
6 means to assist minimum and community custody level inmates with
7 educational and employment opportunities when they are released
8 back into our neighborhoods and communities.

9 SECTION 3. In-facility workline programs and in-community
10 workline programs provide productive, mutually beneficial
11 results for the inmate, the facility, and the community. The
12 department of public safety is directed to increase the scope
13 and number of workline programs it currently operates at its
14 prison and jail facilities.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
18 developing and operating in-facility workline programs at each
19 correctional facility and in-community workline projects
20 throughout the State.



1 SECTION 5. The sum appropriated in section 4 shall be
2 expended by the department of public safety for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 6. The department of public safety shall submit a
5 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
6 convening of the regular session of 2007 on the status of this
7 Act, including cost implications, statutory impediments, and
8 proposals for new legislation, if needed.

9 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



Report Title:

Prison Facilities; Community Worklines

Description:

Directs the department of public safety to adopt strict policies regarding program participation by inmates. (HB2833 HD1)

