

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, given the problems
2 associated with inmate re-entry into the community, as well as
3 the high rate of recidivism among the ex-offender population,
4 programs that effectively assist in the transition of inmates
5 from prison to the community are critical. Once released from
6 prison, an ex-offender faces must deal with various issues, such
7 as workplace barriers, housing restrictions, and many other
8 informal limitations as a result of prejudice against ex-
9 offenders.

10 The legislature further finds that a person's time in jail
11 or prison costs society from \$70 to \$400 per day, depending upon
12 the level of security measures required. These costs can be
13 dramatically reduced through the implementation of programs that
14 assist with the inmate's post-incarceration community
15 reintegration process. For many ex-offenders, education is the
16 key to their reintegration into the community.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
2 department of education adult education program to assist ex-
3 offenders with successful reintegration into the community, so
4 as to reduce recidivism, increase productivity, and support them
5 to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
9 establish:

- 10 (1) Special schooling or programs to encourage and provide
11 opportunities for an inmate exiting jail or prison to
12 obtain a general education development diploma to
13 increase opportunities to obtain employment in the
14 community;
- 15 (2) A special school or schools at appropriate locations
16 to complete the general education development diploma
17 requirements;
- 18 (3) Distance learning programs for incarcerated inmates to
19 facilitate educational opportunities;
- 20 (4) A permanent, personalized educational and job
21 preparation plan for individuals on parole and others
22 released into the community from jail or prison who



1 express a desire for additional education to prepare
2 for gainful employment;

3 (5) The assignment of a unique identifier by the
4 department of education, such as number or code, to an
5 ex-offender upon completion of the general education
6 development diploma for the purpose of tracking the
7 ex-offender into the workforce or a postsecondary
8 educational institution; and

9 (6) A voluntary data tracking system to identify
10 successful educational components that help ex-
11 offenders mainstream into the community.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

15

INTRODUCED BY: Norman Sakamfu
Will Syro
Clarence A. Kishita
Yvonne J.
May L. Han
Franzanne Chun Oakland
James Mercedes K.

Report Title:

Education; Prison Inmates

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of education for adult education programs for prison inmates to assist with their transition to the community upon release.

