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WRITTEN COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL 1402, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Senator Bake, Senator Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (Department) strongly supports the passage of House Bill 1402, HD2, SD1, which seeks to amend the current maximum number of forty-five temporary exempt positions within the Correctional Industries (CI) Division of the Department to 65 temporary exempt positions. CI is mandated to provide the maximum level of vocational rehabilitation opportunities for able-bodied inmates in correctional facilities. At present, CI employs an average of 131 inmates per month in various work programs. If enacted, the increase in the maximum number of staff members will allow for the hiring of additional qualified staff and expand CI vocational rehabilitative programs and work opportunities for the incarcerated population.

Currently, CI's vocational and rehabilitative work programs in the facilities are limited to sewing; canteen; printing; furniture manufacturing and refurbishing; and warehousing. In addition, CI provides inmates classified at community status with work opportunities outside of the facilities through interagency and private sector agreements,

which includes light construction, assembly and installation, landscaping, and providing labor forces for demolition, moving, and picking and packing of fruit.

Passage of HB 1402 HD2 SD1 will serve to strengthen the Department's comprehensive reintegration program and will enable CI to expand and build industries at Waiawa Correctional Facility, Women's Community Correctional Center, Hawaii Community Correctional Center, and Kulani Correctional Facility, and assist in the development of private sector and union partnerships that will benefit the state and better prepare offenders for re-entry into the community.

CI is a self-supporting division, which utilizes revolving funds and, therefore, **general funds are not anticipated to support any additional positions and/or expansion of rehabilitative and work programs under the division.** Further, any additional positions established as a result of passage of this measure will be processed through the Department of Human Resources Development pursuant to established guidelines and only as revenue streams becomes available.

Through providing education, treatment and vocational rehabilitative services, we will be better able to assist inmates with successful re-integration and transition back to the community. By doing so, we will simultaneously help reduce recidivism.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments on this important rehabilitative and re-entry measure.



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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 28, 2008

H.B. 1402, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 –
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL
INDUSTRIES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the purpose and intent of H.B. 1402, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. This measure, as drafted, would permit the Correctional Industries program within the Department of Public Safety by increasing the limit on the number of temporary exempt positions from forty-five (45) to sixty-five (65). As a matter of policy, we are consistently opposing bills that call for employees to be exempt from Chapter 76, HRS (Civil Service).

Excluding employees from Chapter 76, HRS creates a second class of employees who frequently encounter problems at work because of poor management practices. Employees who are exempt from civil service may be dismissed or disciplined for no reason and lack any recourse. There are currently more than 2,000 positions in state government that are exempt due to statutory provisions similar to S.B. 1448, S.D. 1, H.D. 2. This number is excessive and the vast majority of these positions deserve civil service status. The Legislature should not approve the creation of additional exempt positions in any department.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to H.B. 1402, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director