

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

CLAYTON A. FRANK
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING
Deputy Director
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1488
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

By

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Committee on Public Safety
Senator Will Espero, Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

AND

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Senator Espero, Senator Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 1488, which will eliminate the cap of forty-five temporary exempt positions within the Correctional Industries (CI) Division of the department. 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. The elimination on the cap of temporary exempt positions will allow for the hiring of additional qualified staff and dramatic expansion of all 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 SB 1488 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 the under 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 rehabilitation, it is believed that the inmates' ability to successfully transition back to the community and the recidivism rate will be significantly positively impacted.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important re-entry measure.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 601 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2991



Randy Perreira *Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0011 Fax: 808 528-0922

Nora A. Nomura *Deputy Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0003 Fax: 808 528-0922

Derek M. Mizuno *Deputy Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0055 Fax: 808 523-6879

The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Public Safety
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
February 5, 2008

Senate Bill 1488- Relating to Correctional Industries

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes S.B. 1488. This bill proposes to allow the Correctional Industries program located in the Department of Public Safety to appoint an unlimited number of positions exempt from Chapter 76, HRS.

Allowing such language would enable the Correctional Industries to create an unlimited number of exempt positions. This is in direct conflict with the purpose of Chapter 76, HRS, which states the employer should provide a career service in government with reasonable job security. Employers have created numerous "exempt" positions to circumvent the civil service system which has resulted in lowered morale, hiring of less than qualified employees and inequity in pay rates between civil service and exempt employees. Many exempt employees have been employed in this status for years as employers make no effort to create permanent, civil service positions. In recent years, there has been legislation mandating the employers to convert exempt positions to civil service. This bill will be in conflict with these legislative mandates.

We respectfully urge that this bill be held in your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora A. Nomura', is written over a white background.

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director