



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

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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
February 22, 2008

S.B. 1448, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 1448, S.D. 1. This measure, as drafted, would permit the Correctional Industries program within the Department of Public Safety to establish up to 65 temporary exempt positions. 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 2,193 positions in state government that are exempt due to statutory provisions similar to S.B. 1448, S.D. 1. This number is excessive and the vast majority of these positions deserve civil service status.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to S.B. 1448, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora A. Nomura', is written over the typed name.

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

LINDA LINGLE
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WRITTEN COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 1488 SD1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Friday, February 22, 2008, 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

The Department of Public Safety is providing written comments strongly supporting the passage of Senate Bill 1488 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 sixty-five 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 SB 1488 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 that result from the passage of this measure**. 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 when revenue streams become 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.