

# SB 2249

## **RELATING TO CORRECTIONS**

*Description:*

Allows committed persons to create and place for sale approved products and crafts. Excludes products and crafts that relate to the committed person's criminal offense. 25% of proceeds to fund rehabilitation programs.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2249  
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

by

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 31, 2012; 3:15 pm  
State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2249; however, PSD is unable to develop this type of program at this time. PSD requests the option to further explore the concept through discussion with the State Procurement Office, partnerships in the community and other agencies. The measure permits committed persons to create and place for sale approved products and crafts, excluding products and crafts that relate to the committed person's criminal offense. The bill also mandates that 25% of the proceeds fund rehabilitation programs.

PSD appreciates the intent of SB 2249 and realizes that the concept is sound; however, PSD is concerned that the lack of regulatory rules and/or statutory requirements may incur ethics and/or procurement violations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

# FISHNET MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENTS OPERATIONS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

3:15 p.m.

Room 224

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2249

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

My name is Bonnie Holcombe and I am the Facility Chaplain, at the Women's Community Correctional Center in Kailua, Hawaii and Executive Director of the Total Life Recovery Program, a gender specific multi-faith based treatment program sponsored by Fishnet Ministries, International.

I want to thank the committee for introducing this bill to allow offenders the opportunity to develop and use their talents to support themselves and give them the opportunity to give back to support programs in the facility.

We should be engaged in forward thinking that will assist the offenders in developing responsibility and at the same time will provide incentives to foster good behavior as well as program compliance.

At present, the women who participate in the Total Life Recovery Program have a Crochet Club. They choose different community projects to give their creations to during the year. They have given to the Veteran's Wing at Tripler, newborns at Castle, the Shriners Hospital and for the elderly. I cannot express to you the joy and satisfaction the women experience in making something beautiful to give to others.

The women would love to be able to have the means to support themselves. Many are indigent without support of any kind and others do not want to take monies from their families. The opportunity to sell what they make will establish a sense of dignity, and self worth while giving them the chance to be creative.

The TLRP has offered watercolor painting classes and many of their paintings have been exhibited at the Annual Watercolor Society's Exhibition. They had offers from those who wanted to buy their work and we were unable to accommodate the request.

There are many states (Oklahoma, Arizona, Illinois, North Dakota and Montana to name a few) that provide opportunity for prisoners to sell their crafts.

Our world is changing and people are developing new ideas and ways to support their families by using their gifts and talents to meet the varied needs of the community. The ideas and opportunities are endless and the benefits for the offender and the prison?

Life changing.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie C. Holcombe

Facility Chaplain

Women's Community Correctional Center

Founder/Executive Director

Total Life Recovery Program

[totalliferecovery.org](http://totalliferecovery.org)

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