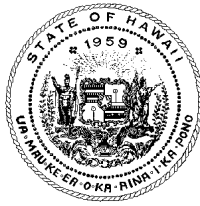


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 74
RELATING TO
CORRECTIONS
by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 21, 2013; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Bill 74 and the recommendation that PSD conduct a study to ascertain the practices of correctional facilities in other States with regard to the making and sale of arts and crafts by inmates.

The measure provides committed persons an opportunity to create and place for sale approved products and crafts with a mandate that 25% of the proceeds fund rehabilitation programs and 25% be deposited into the crime victim compensation special fund established by section 351-62.5.

PSD is requesting to amend page 1, line 5 by replacing "shall" with "may."

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phones/E-Mail: (808) [533-3454](tel:533-3454), (808) [927-1214](tel:927-1214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. David Ige, Chair

Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 21, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 74 - SALE OF CRAFTS

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 74 allows committed persons to create and place for sale approved products and crafts. Allocates proceeds to rehabilitation programs, the crime victim compensation special fund, and the committed person's account. Requires department of public safety to study other states' practices on the making and sale of arts and crafts by inmates. Requires a report to the 2014 legislature.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure, which allows 25% of sales to go toward victim restitution; 25% of sales to go toward incarcerated person's reentry/reintegration; and 50% of sales go to incarcerated person's facility account.

Selling crafts would allow the individual to generate some funds to purchase needed items from the commissary without burdening their families for necessary items like clothing, toiletries and other needed hygiene products.

It is obvious that a busy incarcerated person is easier to manage. The sale of their handicrafts increases the self-esteem of the incarcerated and can enable transition back to the community with a marketable skill. Many prisons around the continent have craft programs that allow the incarcerated artist to earn some money and pay restitution to their victims.

A small sampling of programs around the continent include programs in Arizona, Washington state and New Hampshire.

ARIZONA

Prison Outlet Store Sells Crafts Made by Inmates¹

The finished products are put up for sale in the Outlet Store in Florence, Ariz. -- sorry, no out-of-state sales -- and proceeds are divided between the inmate and a victims' rights group. **The program also helps save the state millions of dollars because the rate in which participating felons return to prison drops 30 percent.**

"Those inmates gain marketable job skills they can use in the real world," Rick Kahn, vice president and sales manager of Arizona Correctional Industries. "And they leave here with an understanding of the workforce because we treat them like co-workers."

WASHINGTON STATE

Prison Inmates Free Their Minds With Arts And Crafts²

WALLA WALLA - As Washington State Penitentiary inmates, they have plenty of time on their hands, and some choose to use their hands as they serve their time.

They are the jewelers, the leather craftsmen, the sketch artists who advanced from doodling in their cells to producing professional-looking works of art that are sold to staff members and the public.

"Instead of turning into a video idiot (in my cell), I braid these for a couple of hours," said John Breen, 34, displaying his leather-braid belts and other handiwork.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

"Correction Creations" Offers NH-Made Crafts and Furniture³

John Limoge, who has been the prison shop manager for about 13 years, said about 10% of the men incarcerated at the prison are enrolled in the program, and more have been put onto a waiting list.

"The inmates have their own artistic abilities and interests," John says. **"They decide what they want to make, and then they price it before it is sent to Grevior Furniture."** The prison shop also accepts custom orders, which can be placed through Grevior. John notes that the inmates pay for their own craft materials, and any proceeds from sales are shared between the inmates, the prison, and Grevior.

¹ Nov 30th 2010 By Laura Leu

<http://www.asylum.com/2010/11/30/prison-outlet-store-arizona-correctional-industries/>

² By Terry Mcconn, Walla Walla Union-Bulletin. The Seattle Times, Sunday, January 27, 2013.

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=19950305&slug=2108400>

³ Christine Randall - September 18, 2012.

<http://thelaker.com/correction-creations-offers-nh-made-crafts-and-furniture>

John explains how this unique “Corrections Creations” shop came about. “This is our first venture like this,” he says. “We’ve had a state-of-the-art woodworking and craft shop at the state prison for over 25 years, but after the recent statewide budget cuts and staff reductions at the NHDOC, our store was reduced to the point that we weren’t able to open. So we came up with the idea to find a local business interested in providing space and selling our crafts on consignment.”

The NHDOC sent out a Request for Proposals to businesses throughout the state, with a positive response. “We had a lot of interest among smaller “Mom and Pop” stores and consignment stores,” John says. “The interested businesses had to fill out applications and submit their proposals to the State, and then a selection committee reviewed these. The committee selected Grevior Furniture.”

Community Alliance on Prisons encourages the Department of Public Safety to establish programs like this to develop marketable skills to prepare incarcerated persons for successful reentry into the community as well as to enhance prison management. The incarcerated persons at Kulani were making incredible wood products. I have a beautiful poi pounder that our men artfully crafted while incarcerated there.

And I have also received beautiful art work from our men in Arizona, although I don’t believe that their work is offered for sale.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and for thinking about ways to enhance public safety, increase the safety of prison managers, and develop programs to assist reentry for those exiting incarceration.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB74 on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 9:53:16 AM

SB74

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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