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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. Research has demonstrated that low-risk drug  
2 offenders can be effectively and safely transitioned from jail  
3 or prison to community status through the availability of a  
4 comprehensive and coordinated continuum of evidence-based  
5 treatment services. Strong empirical evidence consistently  
6 demonstrates that substance abuse treatment reduces crime and is  
7 cost-effective, with research studies documenting savings of \$10  
8 to \$18 for every \$1 spent. Through the use of evidence-based  
9 practices, community drug treatment programs can effectively  
10 break the costly cycle of offender drug use, crime, and  
11 incarceration by significantly reducing recidivism. The goals  
12 and benefits of such a comprehensive and coordinated continuum  
13 of treatment services include:

14           (1) Reducing the prison population and the cost of  
15           incarceration by decreasing recidivism among low-risk  
16           drug offenders;

17           (2) Identifying a network of key resources necessary for  
18           success; and



1 (3) Preserving public safety through careful initial  
2 screening and continuing monitoring of participants in  
3 the project as they live in the community.

4 The purpose of this Act is to plan and implement a two-year  
5 pilot project to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of providing  
6 a coordinated system of diversion and reentry treatment and  
7 support services to help low-risk drug offenders transition from  
8 jail or prison back into the community.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
10 of public safety a pilot project to be known as the diversion  
11 and reentry pilot project for low-risk drug offenders.

12 (b) There shall be one hundred participants in the pilot  
13 project annually, from among:

14 (1) Low-risk male and female offenders diverted from the  
15 Oahu community correctional center; and

16 (2) Low-risk male and female offenders who are eligible  
17 for early release or parole.

18 (c) The effectiveness of the pilot project shall be  
19 evaluated. The evaluation shall include project participants'  
20 status with respect to the following criteria:

21 (1) Record of arrest;

22 (2) Re-incarceration;



- 1           (3) Substance abuse;
- 2           (4) Employment status;
- 3           (5) Compliance with the terms and conditions of release;
- 4           (6) Housing status; and
- 5           (7) The availability of a positive support group.

6           (d) The pilot project shall be based on evidence-based  
7 principles.

8           (e) Data shall be collected by service providers and shall  
9 be submitted to the department of public safety every six months  
10 for evaluation purposes.

11           (f) The department of public safety shall provide general  
12 oversight of the pilot project.

13           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2015-2016 for the pilot project known as the diversion and  
18 reentry pilot project for low-risk drug offenders established by  
19 this Act.

20           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
21 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.



# H.B. NO. 2363

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014, and  
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. A. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 22 2014



# H.B. NO. 2363

**Report Title:**

Diversion and Reentry Pilot Project for Low-risk Drug Offenders

**Description:**

Provides systematic diversion and reentry programming for low-risk drug offenders by establishing the Diversion and Reentry Pilot Project for Low-risk Drug Offenders. Effective July 1, 2014, and repealed on June 30, 2016.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

