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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the ongoing  
2 prevalence of adult corrections officers using sick leave has  
3 serious consequences for the limited visitation opportunities  
4 afforded to inmates and their families and friends. For  
5 example, the local news media has reported that at the Oahu  
6 community correctional center, where visitors are allowed only  
7 one weekend day each week, visitors were denied all but four of  
8 the twenty-two possible visitation days in a span of two and  
9 one-half months in the beginning of 2014 because of staffing  
10 shortages caused by corrections officers calling in sick.

11           The legislature further finds that correctional facility  
12 visitations are vital for the inmates' peace of mind and  
13 rehabilitation and as a means of receiving support from family  
14 and friends. A lack or reduction of visitation opportunities  
15 can be detrimental to the overall safety of correctional  
16 facilities by promoting inmate agitation and requiring  
17 corrections officers to work extra hours that exact a physical



1 toll and may affect performance. Hence, the frequency of sick  
2 leave use at correctional facilities has negative effects on the  
3 well-being of the inmates, correctional officers, and the public  
4 alike.

5 The purpose of this Act is to protect the interests of  
6 correctional facility inmates and their families and friends,  
7 the corrections officers, and the public by authorizing the  
8 department of public safety to hire private employees as  
9 temporary corrections officers, as necessary to maintain regular  
10 visitation hours for inmates or to otherwise ensure adequate  
11 staffing.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§353- Temporary employment of private corrections  
16 officers. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary or any  
17 provision of a collective bargaining agreement executed pursuant  
18 to chapter 89, the director may contract with any private entity  
19 to perform the services and functions of a corrections officer  
20 at any correctional facility under the administration of the  
21 department, on a temporary basis and as may be necessary to



1 maintain regular visitation hours for inmates or to otherwise  
2 ensure sufficient staffing at the facility; provided that:

3 (1) Any contract entered into pursuant to this section  
4 shall be for a term not exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ ; and

5 (2) No person shall be hired pursuant to this section  
6 unless the person possesses the qualifications  
7 necessary to competently perform the services and  
8 functions of a corrections officer, as determined by  
9 the director."

10 SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the  
11 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
12 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
13 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
14 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
15 of this Act are severable.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Gregory Taylor

Anthony Hoelen



# H.B. NO. 360

**Report Title:**

Correctional Facilities; Sick Leave; Inmate Visitation Hours;  
Temporary Private Corrections Officers

**Description:**

Authorizes PSD to hire private employees as temporary corrections officers as necessary to maintain regular visitation hours for inmates or to otherwise ensure adequate staffing.

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

