

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2454, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Labor
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 15, 2018; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chairs Nishihara and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Wakai and English, and Members of the
Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** House Bill (HB)
2454, House Draft (HD) 1, which would create a 3-year pilot employment project
within PSD's Hawaii Correctional Industries, to assist former inmates reentering
society.

Many offenders have very limited resources to find gainful employment upon
release, which is a key factor in keeping them from recidivating. The Department
believes that the pilot project proposed in this measure would greatly assist in their
transition back into our communities as contributing members of society.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

LATE



HB2454 HD1

RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Labor

March 15, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2454 HD1, which would establish a pilot program within Hawai'i Correctional Industries (HCI) to provide full-time employment to five former inmates, as a potential approach to better rehabilitating pa'ahao and enhancing their ability to successfully re-enter society.

HCI's inmate work programs currently provide pa'ahao with valuable opportunities to develop marketable skills, prosocial behaviors, and a positive work ethic while incarcerated. These opportunities give offenders a sense of agency and value, facilitating their rehabilitation. The valuable job skills pa'ahao learn in these HCI programs also help to ease their transition back into the community, reducing the likelihood of recidivism. The pilot program in this measure would go one step further toward ensuring the rehabilitation and stable reintegration of pa'ahao, by allowing former pa'ahao a first opportunity at full-time employment within HCI, through which they may also act as peer mentors for currently incarcerated participants in the HCI work programs. OHA hopes that the demonstrated success of this pilot program will lead to its further expansion, and will encourage other state agencies and private organizations to consider employing ex-pa'ahao to help stabilize their reentry into society.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** HB2454 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.