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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 Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 29, 2018; 10:50 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan DelaCruz, Chair

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 29, 2018

10:50 am

Room 211

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2454 HD1 - HCI PILOT PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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 in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of all the people who have died in our facilities including, JESSICA FORTSON, JOEY O'MALLEY, DAISY KASITATI, ASHLEY GREY. and the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 2454 HD1 establishes a three-year Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Pilot Project within the Department of Public Safety to assist former inmates as they reenter society.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. Hawai'i Correctional Industries is really expanding its reach. This bill helps individuals cross that bridge from incarceration to reentry by utilizing the skills that they learned while incarcerated.

We are big fans of mentoring and this program develops peer mentors for folks on the path these individuals had previously walked. This could be a great "Return on Investment" for Hawai'i's overburdened taxpayers!

Programs like this are so important for our people who have spent many years away from their communities. It follows the principle of "Each one, Teach one", which is an effective strategy to help people learn. Someone who has walked the path of their mentee knows the barriers and challenges ahead and can help an individual develop the resiliency it takes to live in the "free world". We want more people contributing to our economy, finding meaningful work, and helping our communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. We urge passage of this bill.

*One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see
and to help them navigate a course to their destination.*

John C. Maxwell

HB-2454-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 10:49:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: