



LATE

HB2454 HD1
RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 29, 2018

10:50 a.m.

Room 211

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 Committee to **PASS** HB2454 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.