

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

9:30 am

Room 309

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2454 – FORMER INMATE EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROJECT

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole 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 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 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 and crossing that bridge from incarceration to reentry and utilizing the skills that these individuals learned to be peer mentors to those travelling on the path they had walked.

## RESEARCH

### **Mentoring as a Component of Reentry: Practical Considerations from the Field**

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/publications/mentoring-as-a-component-of-reentry-practical-considerations-from-the-field/>

With the support of the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Reentry Resource Center (NRR) worked with researchers, practitioners, correctional officials, and more than 150 organizations that have been awarded Second Chance Act mentoring grants to create practical considerations for community-based reentry organizations that are incorporating adult mentoring into their portfolio of reentry services. Corrections agencies, other organizations, and legislative officials may also find this publication useful for gaining a better understanding of the components of adult mentoring in reentry.

## COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND CORRECTIONS AGENCIES: RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING QUESTIONNAIRE

The success of the mentoring component of a community-based adult reentry program often relies heavily on the quality of the relationship between the program's parent organization and its corrections partners, including probation and parole. This questionnaire is designed to highlight topic areas that are important for community-based organizations to discuss with their potential corrections partner(s) prior to formalizing a partnership. Community-based organizations can use the questions in each category below to confirm the details of their own reentry program and its mentoring component, guide the partnership formation process, and gather information about corrections partners. Community-based organizations may review this questionnaire at different points in the partnership with corrections to adjust policies as necessary.

### ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. Who are the single points of contact—or liaisons—for the mentoring component of your reentry program and corrections, including probation and parole?
2. Who are the key personnel responsible for the mentoring component of your reentry program? What are their specific roles and responsibilities?
3. Which corrections staff will oversee the facilitation of reentry mentor pre-release engagement within the designated correctional facility (or facilities)? What are their specific roles and responsibilities?
4. How will your organization maintain regular communication with corrections? How frequently will such communication occur?
5. What will corrections' role be in identifying potential participants for the mentoring component of your reentry program?
6. How will conflict between your organization and corrections be managed if or when it arises?

### INFORMATION SHARING:

1. List the following key components of your reentry program's mentoring plan to share with corrections partners:
  - a. Target population:
  - b. Participant recruitment strategy:
  - c. Expected days and times of visits to the correctional facility:
  - d. Mentoring model (one-on-one or group, peers or non-peers):
2. What information about reentry mentoring participants will the corrections partners share with your reentry program on an ongoing basis? Identify any legal or ethical concerns with respect to information sharing.
3. What are the best methods for sharing information between your reentry program and corrections?
  - a. Is a formal release of information agreement needed? If so, who from each party needs to sign the agreement and in what circumstances does it apply?
  - b. What are the confidentiality policies of both your organization and the potential corrections partner(s)?

### **Community-Based Organizations and Corrections Agencies: Relationship-Building Questionnaire**

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/publications/mentoring-as-a-component-of-reentry-practical-considerations-from-the-field/>

The success of the mentoring component of a community-based adult reentry program often relies heavily on the quality of the relationship between the program’s parent organization and its corrections partners, including probation and parole. This questionnaire is designed to highlight topic areas that are important for community-based organizations to discuss with their potential corrections partner(s) prior to formalizing a partnership.

### **Reentry Partnerships: A Guide for States & Faith-Based and Community Organizations**

The Council of State Governments Justice Center (2008)

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/publications/reentry-partnerships-a-guide-for-states-faith-based-and-community-organizations/>

The CSG Justice Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, U.S. Department of Labor, developed a guide that offers practical recommendations for how state government officials and community-based service providers can better use limited resources to help people released from prisons and jails successfully and safely rejoin neighborhoods and families.

#### **Other Resources**

### **Mentoring Formerly Incarcerated Adults: Insights from the Ready4Work Reentry Initiative**

Public/Private Ventures (2009)

<http://ppv.issuelab.org/resource/mentoring-formerly-incarcerated-adults-insights-from-the-ready4work-reentry-initiative.html>

This report explores mentoring as a tool for supporting the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated people within the context of a larger reentry strategy—in this case, the Ready4Work model. The report describes Ready4Work’s mentoring component, the extent to which mentoring was attractive to participants, the types of adults who volunteered to serve as mentors and how receipt of mentoring was related to participant outcomes.

### **Mentoring Former Prisoners: A Guide For Reentry Programs**

Public/Private Ventures (2009)

<http://ppv.issuelab.org/resource/mentoring-former-prisoners-a-guide-for-reentry-programs.html>

This guide was originally published by the U.S. Department of Labor in November 2007 under the title Mentoring Ex-Prisoners: A Guide for Prisoner Reentry Programs. Due to growing interest in providing mentoring services as part of larger reentry efforts around the country, Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) reissued the guide with updated information related to P/PV’s evaluation of the Ready4Work initiative (particularly findings published in Mentoring Formerly Incarcerated Adults, (2009.)

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” .

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our research. 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**

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 6:41:12 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
E. Ileina Funakoshi		Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for HB2454.

The bill offers an inmate a chance to learn a trade and be able to exit the prison without being so fearful of the future. There are many obstacles, but you will remove one of them by passing this bill.

Mahalo,

e. ileina funakoshi

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 1:31:06 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jun Shin	Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Our justice system needs to shift from a emphasis on punishment to rehabilitation. A major step in that is setting up a system that insures that once an individual serves his or her time, they are not left in the wind, but they are assisted in their transitions to becoming a part of society again.

Through this program, we can give these individuals a second chance through oppurtunities to find employment oppurtunities and teaching them the necessary lessons so that they have the skills to become independent members of society and not just leave them to navigate a changing world on their own.

By creating a solid network, we can make these inmates reentries to society a permanent one.



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Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Business,

The Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i, representing nearly 600 registered members, **strongly supports** HB2454. We believe strongly in the idea of transforming the state's criminal justice system into what activists have begun referring to as a “restorative justice” model. The restorative model stands opposite of a criminalization or punitive model, with incarceration and detention as its cornerstone policy—which is what Hawai‘i, and most of the country still adheres to, to its own detriment.

After decades of research and years of best-practice modeling in other jurisdictions, there can be no doubt whatsoever that a restorative justice model is cheaper, more effective at reducing crime, and more humane than the punitive model. There is no good reason not to implement restorative justice programming in our state, which can include substance abuse rehabilitation, victim/offender mediation, conferencing and dialog, peace-making circles, victim assistance and involvement, former prisoner assistance and involvement, reduction of DMI (Disparate Minority Incarceration), real restitution and community service via an expanded parole and probation program.

In Hawai‘i, where Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations are dramatically over-represented in the criminal justice system, agricultural work programs and place-based, identity-rehabilitation programs are also important. These programs allow offenders a chance to reconnect with the land, traditional food systems and traditional cultural practices, something that is crucial to the framework of an established island identity. The loss of this identity is a major contributing factor to low education and job attainment levels, low health and wellness outcomes and, therefore, high rates of contact with the criminal justice system.

Another crucial component of the restorative model is assistance in transitioning current inmates out of incarceration and into society once again. One of the top contributing factors to recidivism—a person’s

relapse into criminal behavior, often after the person has received punitive sanctions for a previous crime—is the difficulty former inmates have in finding legitimate income sources once they are released. The economic and social impacts of incarceration, in particular, have been shown in multiple studies to be high factors in contributing to recidivism.

Criminal records present steep barriers to securing jobs, housing and benefits. These barriers heighten the difficulty of reentry into society for prisoners after they are released. The costs of recidivism are high, and other states have already taken action as a result. In Ohio, state policymakers standardized the use of a validated risk-assessment instrument to focus limited treatment and supervision resources on those individuals assessed at the highest risk for reoffending. In Kansas, state leaders awarded performance-based grants to community correction agencies, partnered with local communities where recidivism rates were highest to improve post-release supervision, and enhanced housing and workforce development services to better meet the needs of people coming out of prison. Michigan officials invested heavily in the state's Prisoner Reentry Program, prioritizing funding for housing, employment and other transition support services in order to provide the most effective community-based programming for released individuals. In Ohio, the recidivism rate fell by 11 percent from 2005–2007, and by 15 percent in Kansas, while Michigan's rate dropped by 18 percent during the same period.

Investing in restorative justice programs, including workforce pilot programs that give the inmates opportunities to develop skills, is a proven way to reduce recidivism. But we must do more. Government agencies should be focused on the reentry population with initiatives aimed to improve outcomes in health, housing, education and employment.

Skills do not automatically translate into jobs, particularly when the stigma of conviction holds so much weight with prospective employers. This will need to be addressed as well. Lastly, the potential for so-called “prison labor” to become exploitative is a constant problem that we must remain vigilant against. We must ensure that this program and other workforce programs in the future continue to function for the benefit of the incarcerated person, and not at his or her expense.

Mahalo for your support,

Will Caron  
Social Justice Action Committee Chair  
8083874920





HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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February 11, 2018

TO: Honorable Chair Evans Economic Development & Business Committee

RE: HB 2454 RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES.

Support for hearing on Feb. 14

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 2454 to establish a three-year Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Pilot Project within the Department of Public Safety to assist former inmates as they re-enter society. Too many people are released from prison without the support to reintegrate into society. This would assist with that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel  
President



**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:57:03 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans		Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB2454 to EDB. This is a great way to promote successful Reentry after incarceration and to reduce recidivism. Strong SUPPORT of this bill!

Thank you-

Raelyn Reyno Yeomans

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:56:15 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 2454.

Mahalo,

Ms.Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, HI

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:41:07 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:05:22 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
BUSINESS**

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2454, RELATING TO HAWAII  
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES.**

To the Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair; the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No.2454 relating to the three-year Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Pilot Project.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2454 and supports its passage as its purpose is to assist former inmates as they re-enter society and current inmates pursuing vocational rehabilitation by establishing a three-year pilot project within the department of public safety to authorize the administrator of the correctional industries program, in consultation with the director of public safety, to provide full-time equivalent employment in the Hawaii correctional industries program to up to five former inmates who meet eligibility criteria.

House Bill No.2454 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a three-year Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Pilot Project within the Department of Public Safety to assist former inmates as they re-enter society.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society. Likewise, we support opportunities for those who have been incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community and make available health, educational, and other assistance programs needed to allow them to become productive and respected members of the community. We want the practice of private for-profit detention centers and prisons prohibited. (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 273-278 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2454 establishes a three-year Correctional Industries Former Inmate Employment Pilot Project, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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## Life Foundation & The CHOW Project

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(808) 521-2437 | (808) 853-3292



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### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2454: RELATING TO HAWAI'I CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

TO: Representative Cindy Evans, Chair; Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair;  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 9:30 AM Conference Room 309, State Capitol

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Economic Development & Business:

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 2454 relating to Hawai'i Correctional Industries.

This legislature's findings show that ninety-five percent of inmates will eventually be released from prison and that it is in the best interest of the State to facilitate the reentry of former inmates into society by providing opportunities for gainful employment. Gainfully employed former inmates are far less likely to re-offend and more successfully transition back into the community. Through HB 2454, up to five former inmates will have the opportunity for full-time employment in the Hawai'i correctional industries program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2454, a pilot program which demonstrates Hawai'i's commitment to building stronger communities by supporting individuals exiting incarceration.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk

Executive Director

CHOW Project + Life Foundation







**HB2454**  
**RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES**  
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

February 14, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Room 309

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2454, which would establish within Hawai'i Correctional Industries (HCI) a pilot program 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, and foster improved public safety for our communities as a whole.

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

**LATE**

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 10:49:27 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 8:19:20 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/14/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine Weger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is a long overdue means of making a start at much needed correctional reform. At least take a small step ( pilot program) to support prisoners on release. Without employment, they have little or no chance of success, and we, your constituents continue to foot the bill for mass incarceration.

Christine Weger

Diehl &Weger Attorneys at Law