

DAVID Y. IGI  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Cathy Ross**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2454  
RELATING TO HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

by  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 1, 2018; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** House Bill (HB) 2454, which would create a 3-year employment pilot 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 an important 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.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 1, 2018

10:00 am

Room 312

**LATE**

## SUPPORT FOR HB 2454 - FORMER INMATE EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROJECT

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates 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 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 when they were in prison 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 (NRRC) 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*

**LATE**

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 2:26:43 AM  
Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018  
Thursday, February 1, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

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

To the Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair; the Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

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 Hawaii Correctional Industries' pilot project in addressing the needs of former inmate employment. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2454 and support its passage.

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.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[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 affect 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 authorizes the Hawaii Correctional Industries to establish a pilot project that addresses the needs of former inmate employment, 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

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**HB-2454**

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 5:23:18 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/1/2018 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<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: