
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRISONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's prison
2 system houses many more inmates than it was designed to
3 accommodate. Hawaii has a population of approximately five
4 thousand six hundred inmates, costing the State about \$52,000
5 per inmate per year. One reason the prison system is
6 overburdened is that 49.6 per cent of convicted felons return to
7 prison within one year of their release. However, forty-three
8 per cent of inmates who seek and attain education in prison are
9 less likely to return. Accordingly, reducing recidivism by ten
10 inmates will save the State approximately \$520,000 annually.

11 The legislature further finds that in order to reduce
12 recidivism, several states have established programs that
13 include training and mentoring to give inmates an opportunity to
14 learn entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business skills
15 that will facilitate their reentry into society. For example,
16 the Darden School of Business and the University of Virginia
17 have partnered with the Dillwyn Correctional Center to teach



1 eligible and willing inmate students business skills that reduce
2 recidivism. Recidivism rates in Virginia are currently
3 approximately twenty-three per cent, one of the lowest
4 recidivism rates in the nation. Similar programs have been
5 established in other jurisdictions, including the District of
6 Columbia through the Georgetown University McDonough School of
7 Business, and New York through Columbia Business School. An
8 initial investment in this type of program has potential for
9 enormous cost savings for the State.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a working group to
11 create a pilot program designed to reduce recidivism by
12 providing inmates with business and entrepreneurial skills and
13 financial literacy education to establish a foundation for the
14 inmates to succeed after their release from incarceration.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The department of public safety shall
16 establish a working group that shall create a pilot program
17 designed to reduce recidivism. The pilot program shall focus on
18 providing inmates with business and entrepreneurial skills and
19 financial literacy education to establish a foundation for the
20 inmates to succeed after their release from incarceration.



1 (b) The department of public safety shall contract with an
2 accredited post-secondary educational institution to provide
3 incarcerated persons with high-quality instruction that meets
4 the requirements of the pilot program created pursuant to
5 subsection (a).

6 (c) The working group shall submit a report of its
7 findings and recommendations, including a recommendation on
8 whether the pilot program should be extended or made permanent,
9 and any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
11 2025.

12 (d) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,
13 2025.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
17 pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

PSD; Prisons; Recidivism; Working Group; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to establish a working group to create a pilot program designed to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050.
(SD1)

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