



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2455
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES**

by

Max Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Government Reform
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

House Committee on Legislative Management
Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi, Chair
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chairs McKelvey and Kobayashi, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Mizuno, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly opposes House Bill (HB) 2455 and offers the following comments.

As written, HB 2455 would adversely impact Hawaii Correctional Industries' (HCI) if it is required that any goods provided to any state agency by the correctional industries shall be produced or manufactured; or pre-existing goods to be substantially altered or customized. Considering having inmate program participants for an average of only 6-12 weeks, HCI is unable to provide the "traditional" correctional industries programs where it produces or manufactures goods. Instead, HCI provides its participants with a real-world work environment where these men and women learn: inventory management, warehousing, forklift operation, basic sewing, small engine repairs, landscape management, customer service, customer relations management software, tool management and control, inventory management software, warranty

management, quality management, production management, packaging and delivery. HCI's participants receive the soft skills of hard work, teamwork, self-control/restraint, being on-time, being under and compliant to authority, timeliness, proper grooming, critical thinking, conflict resolution, self-starting, self-confidence, belief in themselves and so much more. If the measure is passed, HCI would be unable to remain open and PSD would have to close this crucial reentry program that serves more than 400-500 inmates annually and employs 25 civilian employees. If enacted, HCI, as a self-supporting, non-general funded program, would be required to initiate the closure of five of its seven vocational rehabilitation program units.

The Department respectfully requests that HB 2455 be held for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.