

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phones/E-Mail: (808) [533-3454](tel:533-3454), (808) [927-1214](tel:927-1214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Henry Aquino, Chair

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2013

8:30 a.m.

Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 74 SD1 - SALE OF CRAFTS

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing 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 for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 74 SD1 allows committed persons to create and place for sale approved products and crafts. Allocates proceeds to rehabilitation programs, the crime victim compensation special fund, and the committed person's account. Requires department of public safety to study other states' practices on the making and sale of arts and crafts by inmates. Requires a report to the 2014 legislature.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure, which allows 25% of sales to go toward victim restitution; 25% of sales to go toward incarcerated person's reentry/reintegration; and 50% of sales go to incarcerated person's facility account.

Selling crafts would allow the individual to generate some funds to purchase needed items from the commissary without burdening their families for necessary items like clothing, toiletries and other needed hygiene products.

It is obvious that a busy incarcerated person is easier to manage. The sale of their handicrafts increases the self-esteem of the incarcerated and can enable transition back to the community with a marketable skill. Many prisons around the continent have craft programs that allow the incarcerated artist to earn some money and pay restitution to their victims.

A small sampling of programs around the continent include programs in Arizona, Washington state and New Hampshire.

ARIZONA

Prison Outlet Store Sells Crafts Made by Inmates¹

The finished products are put up for sale in the Outlet Store in Florence, Ariz. -- sorry, no out-of-state sales -- and proceeds are divided between the inmate and a victims' rights group. **The program also helps save the state millions of dollars because the rate in which participating felons return to prison drops 30 percent.**

"Those inmates gain marketable job skills they can use in the real world," Rick Kahn, vice president and sales manager of Arizona Correctional Industries. "And they leave here with an understanding of the workforce because we treat them like co-workers."

WASHINGTON STATE

Prison Inmates Free Their Minds With Arts And Crafts²

WALLA WALLA - As Washington State Penitentiary inmates, they have plenty of time on their hands, and some choose to use their hands as they serve their time.

They are the jewelers, the leather craftsmen, the sketch artists who advanced from doodling in their cells to producing professional-looking works of art that are sold to staff members and the public.

"Instead of turning into a video idiot (in my cell), I braid these for a couple of hours," said John Breen, 34, displaying his leather-braid belts and other handiwork.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

"Correction Creations" Offers NH-Made Crafts and Furniture³

John Limoge, who has been the prison shop manager for about 13 years, said about 10% of the men incarcerated at the prison are enrolled in the program, and more have been put onto a waiting list.

"The inmates have their own artistic abilities and interests," John says. **"They decide what they want to make, and then they price it before it is sent to Grevior Furniture."** The prison shop also accepts custom orders, which can be placed through Grevior. John notes that the inmates pay for their own craft materials, and any proceeds from sales are shared between the inmates, the prison, and Grevior.

¹ Nov 30th 2010 By Laura Leu

<http://www.asylum.com/2010/11/30/prison-outlet-store-arizona-correctional-industries/>

² By Terry Mcconn, Walla Walla Union-Bulletin. The Seattle Times, Sunday, January 27, 2013.

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=19950305&slug=2108400>

³ Christine Randall - September 18, 2012.

<http://thelaker.com/correction-creations-offers-nh-made-crafts-and-furniture>

John explains how this unique “Corrections Creations” shop came about. “This is our first venture like this,” he says. “We’ve had a state-of-the-art woodworking and craft shop at the state prison for over 25 years, but after the recent statewide budget cuts and staff reductions at the NHDOC, our store was reduced to the point that we weren’t able to open. So we came up with the idea to find a local business interested in providing space and selling our crafts on consignment.”

The NHDOC sent out a Request for Proposals to businesses throughout the state, with a positive response. “We had a lot of interest among smaller “Mom and Pop” stores and consignment stores,” John says. “The interested businesses had to fill out applications and submit their proposals to the State, and then a selection committee reviewed these. The committee selected Grevior Furniture.”

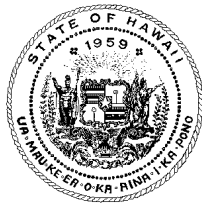
Community Alliance on Prisons encourages the Department of Public Safety to establish programs like this to develop marketable skills to prepare incarcerated persons for successful reentry into the community as well as to enhance prison management. The incarcerated persons at Kulani were making incredible wood products. I have a beautiful poi pounder that our men artfully crafted while incarcerated there.

And I have also received beautiful art work from our men in Arizona, although I don’t believe that their work is offered for sale.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and for thinking about ways to enhance public safety, increase the safety of prison managers, and develop programs to assist reentry for those exiting incarceration.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

1136 Union Mall, Suite 600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: 808 587-1143
FAX 808 587-1146

MARI MCCAIG
Chair

THOMAS T. WATTS
Commissioner

L. DEW KANESHIRO
Commissioner

PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 74
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO
COLLECTION OF RESTITUTION FOR CRIME VICTIMS

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
Representative Kaniela Ing, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2013; 9:30am
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing, and Members,

Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (“Commission”) with the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 74 relating to allowing inmates to produce and sell products and crafts with proceeds allocated to the reentry programs, the Commission’s special fund, and the inmate’s account.

The Commission was established in 1967 to mitigate the suffering and financial impact experienced by victims of violent crime by providing compensation to pay un-reimbursed crime-related expenses. Many victims of violent crime could not afford to pay their medical bills, receive needed mental health or rehabilitative services, or bury a loved one, if compensation were not available. Since 2003, the Commission has operated without general funds. The Commission’s special fund is funded in part by the collection of the compensation fee, inmates’ wages and restitution.

Senate Bill 74 provides for another source of revenue from which the Commission can provide compensation to the victims of violent crimes. Moreover, Senate Bill 74 allows inmates to learn entrepreneur skills.

The Commission urges you to pass SB 74. Thank you for providing the Commission with an opportunity to testify in favor of this important measure.



Committee: Committee on Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:30 am
Place: Conference Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in strong support of S.B. 74, S.D.1, Relating to Corrections

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support to S.B. 74, S.D.1, which seeks to allow committed persons to create and place for sale approved products and crafts, allocates proceeds to rehabilitation programs, the crime victim compensation special fund, and the commitment person’s account, and requires the public safety to study other states’ practices on the making and sale of arts and crafts by inmates.

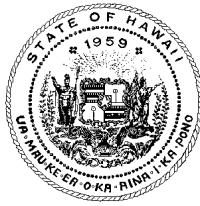
The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort aimed at rehabilitating prisoners, reducing recidivism and alleviating overincarceration. Every effort should be made to provide Hawaii’s inmates with the support and services they need in which to become productive and responsible community members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney and Legislative Program Director

The American Civil Liberties Union (“ACLU”) is our nation’s guardian of liberty – working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96801
T: 808-522-5900
F: 808-522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 74, SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1
RELATING TO
CORRECTIONS

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Kaniela Ing, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2013; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** SB 74, SD1 and the recommendation that PSD conduct a study to ascertain the practices of correctional facilities in other States with regard to the making and sale of arts and crafts by inmates.

The measure provides committed persons an opportunity to create and place for sale approved products and crafts with a mandate that a percentage of the proceeds fund rehabilitation programs and be deposited into the crime victim compensation special fund established by section 351-62.5. We respectfully request that the bill be amended to allow for funds to go into the inmates restricted account for his use after release from incarceration, instead of the facility fund for rehabilitative programs. Further, we request that the bill be clarified to reflect that all deposits made from the sale of approved products and crafts are subject to 353-22.6 Victim Restitution.

PSD is requesting to amend page 1, line 5 by replacing "shall" with "may."

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

ing2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:44 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB74 on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM*

SB74

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for PBS on Mar 14, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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