



CLEAN SLATE

For thousands of people in Hawai'i, a criminal record is a life sentence to poverty. Clean Slate is the idea that every person living with a criminal record deserves a fair chance at supporting themselves and their families by automatically clearing qualifying records after they have served their debt to society.

560,800

people in Hawai'i have a record.
That means

1 in 2, or over 50%

of people have limited access to jobs, education, housing, and other opportunities to participate in civic and social life.

Formerly incarcerated people are

10x

more likely than the general public to experience homelessness.

- People with criminal records who have remained crime-free for four to seven years are no more likely than the general population to commit a new crime.
- Most people with a record face significant barriers to employment, housing, education, credit, and other opportunities to become productive, contributing members of society. This can lead to further arrests, convictions and returns to prison.
- No matter how minor the offense or how long ago it was, an employer, a landlord, or a college may have policies or regulatory requirements that exclude people living with records. Even in the absence of formal barriers, the stigma of a criminal record can be a lifelong barrier to opportunity.
- Research from the University of Michigan finds that people are 11% more likely to be employed and are earning 22% higher wages one year after a record has been cleared.

Enabling people with records to earn a clean slate will smooth the path to successful re-entry (reintegration), reducing the likelihood of recidivism. That means safer communities, fewer people behind bars, and fewer taxpayer dollars wasted on unnecessary incarceration.

To learn more, visit: www.acluhi.org
action@acluhawaii.org