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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY VISITS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that families are a  
2 resource to offenders during their incarceration. The support  
3 of family members can also play a key role in an offender's  
4 rehabilitation, transition, and successful re-entry from prison  
5 or jail to the community. By bringing together an offender and  
6 an offender's family through positive, consistent, and mutually  
7 desirable contact, the correctional system will be improving  
8 public safety and strengthening communities.

9           The purpose of this Act is to ensure the right of family  
10 members to visit inmates.

11           SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14           "§353- Visits from family members. (a) Family members  
15 shall be allowed to visit an inmate at any state correctional  
16 facility during official visiting hours.

17           (b) A visit from a family member shall be pre-approved and  
18 pre-scheduled. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,



1 no visit shall be canceled due to staff absenteeism or any other  
2 non-emergency situation.

3 (c) The department shall develop internal policies and  
4 procedures consistent with this section.


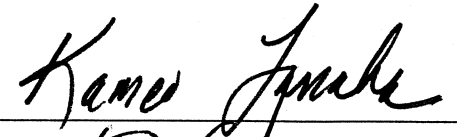
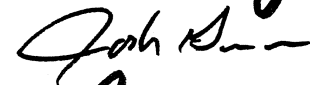
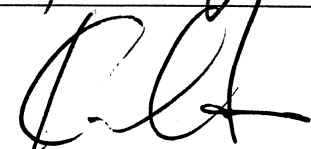




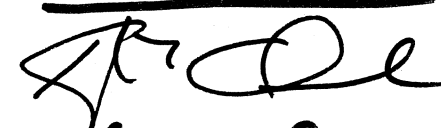



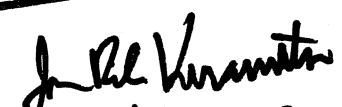
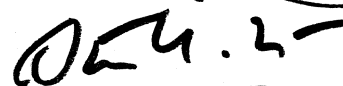
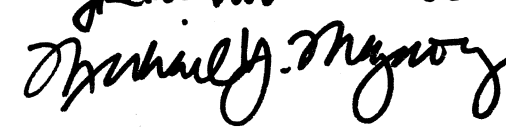
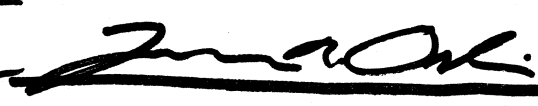
5 (d) For the purposes of this section, "family members"  
6 means persons who are related to each other by blood, marriage,  
7 adoption, or legal guardianship."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10

INTRODUCED BY:



HB 2595

**Report Title:**

Corrections; Family Visits

**Description:**

Restricts the department of public safety from canceling pre-approved and pre-scheduled family visits with inmates.

