
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 the support of family
2 members can play a key role in an incarcerated offender's
3 rehabilitation, transition, and successful re-entry from prison
4 or jail to the community. By bringing together an offender and
5 an offender's family through positive, consistent, and mutually
6 desirable contact, the correctional system will be improving
7 public safety and strengthening communities.

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

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

13 "§353- Visits from family members. (a) Family members
14 shall be allowed to visit an inmate at any state correctional
15 facility during official visiting hours.

16 (b) A visit from a family member shall be preapproved and
17 prescheduled. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
18 preapproved and prescheduled visits for which family members



1 have incurred substantial costs, including but not limited to
2 travel from a neighbor island or the mainland, shall not be
3 cancelled due to staff absenteeism or any non-emergency
4 situation.

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

7 (d) For the purposes of this section, "family members"
8 means persons who are related to each other by blood, marriage,
9 adoption, or legal guardianship, or as reciprocal
10 beneficiaries."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



HB 2595
HD1
SD2
CD1

Report Title:

Corrections; Family Visits

Description:

Restricts the department of public safety from canceling preapproved and prescheduled family visits with inmates in cases where the family has incurred substantial costs. (HB2595 CD1)

