

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2595
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2595, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY VISITS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the Department of Public Safety from canceling pre-approved and pre-scheduled family visits with inmates except for an emergency.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the measure from the Community Alliance on Prisons, the Hawaii Youth Services Network, A Woman's Voice International, and two individuals. The Department of Public Safety submitted testimony in opposition to this measure.

Your Committee finds that the type of cancellation of pre-approved and pre-scheduled visits that causes the most concern are those in which family members have incurred substantial costs, such as travel from the neighbor island or mainland, to visit an inmate.

Your Committee has amended this measure to:

- (1) Specify that pre-approved and pre-scheduled visits for which family members have incurred substantial costs shall not be canceled due to staff absenteeism or any non-emergency situation;



- (2) Provide that in the event that there are insufficient numbers of security staff available to maintain the safety of the facilities, these visits shall be conducted on a non-contact basis;
- (3) Insert a blank appropriation amount to allow the Department of Public Safety to retrofit facilities with non-contact visitation areas; and
- (4) Change the effective date from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2006.

Your Committee notes that the blank appropriation is for supplies and materials, and the Department of Public Safety has specified that it shall utilize Corrections Industries in the construction of these non-contact visitation areas.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2595, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2595, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Hawaiian Affairs,


COLLEEN HANABUSA, Chair



