
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ADOPT POLICIES TO
PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF INCARCERATED PARENTS OF MINOR
CHILDREN TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES ON THE MAINLAND.

1 WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the number of incarcerated
2 parents in the United States grew by approximately fifty-nine
3 per cent; and

4
5 WHEREAS, currently, there is no means of determining the
6 exact number of incarcerated individuals with minor children in
7 Hawaii as no procedure is in place for collecting such data; and

8
9 WHEREAS, it is estimated, however, that there are
10 approximately 3,163 parents of 6,665 children in Hawaii's prison
11 system; and

12
13 WHEREAS, approximately half of Hawaii's incarcerated felons
14 are sent to private correctional facilities on the mainland
15 making it difficult for them to maintain contact with their
16 families; and

17
18 WHEREAS, an increased focus needs to be placed on the
19 children of incarcerated parents to maintain a parent-child
20 bond; and

21
22 WHEREAS, studies indicate that the children of incarcerated
23 individuals suffer from a multitude of negative consequences,
24 including possible displacement from their home and separation
25 from their primary or secondary caregiver; and

26
27 WHEREAS, as a result, these children experience strong
28 emotional reactions to the incarceration and disruption in their
29 home life, leading to a significant increase, up to six times
30 more likely, of becoming involved in the criminal justice system
31 themselves; and
32



1 WHEREAS, state policies contribute to the breakdown of the
 2 family by failing to facilitate the continued relationship
 3 between incarcerated individuals and their children when the
 4 relationship is in the best interests of the child; and

5
 6 WHEREAS, denial of visitation is a means of punishment or
 7 discipline of the incarcerated individuals, but those who truly
 8 suffer are the children; and

9
 10 WHEREAS, the strengthening of family relationships has a
 11 positive effect on recidivism as studies have shown it lessens
 12 the possibility of future incarceration after an inmate's
 13 release from a correctional facility; and

14
 15 WHEREAS, studies have also shown that therapeutic
 16 involvement with families during incarceration builds better and
 17 stronger relationships between the incarcerated parent's
 18 children and the incarcerated parent once the parent is
 19 released; and

20
 21 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety should adopt
 22 policies to prevent the transfer of Hawaii's incarcerated
 23 parents of minor children to correctional facilities on the
 24 mainland; now, therefore,

25
 26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 27 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 28 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
 29 Public Safety is requested to adopt policies to prevent the
 30 transfer of Hawaii's incarcerated parents of minor children to
 31 correctional facilities on the mainland; and

32
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim Director of
 35 Public Safety.

36
 37
 38 OFFERED BY:

Alvin. Sam
John
Kal Nrody
Rida T.R. Ceballos
Charles Neph
Maralano

John M. Higgins
John J. [unclear]
Kamulana
Della A. Belatti
Cynthia Thelen
Cindy Evans



JAN 19 2007