

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1796

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 13 2007

RE: S.C.R. No. 19
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and
Public Safety, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 19 entitled:

"SENATE 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,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect parent-child
relationships of children of incarcerated parents.

Specifically, this measure requests the Department of Public
Safety to adopt policies to prevent the transfer of incarcerated
parents of minor children to correctional facilities on the
mainland.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the
Community Alliance on Prisons, Hawaii Youth Services Network, and
four individuals. Testimony in opposition to this measure was
submitted by the Department of Public Safety.

Your Committees find that an increased focus needs to be
placed on the children of incarcerated parents to maintain a
parent-child bond. It is estimated that there are approximately
3,163 parents of 6,665 children in Hawaii's prison system.
Approximately half of Hawaii's incarcerated felons are sent to
private correctional facilities on the mainland making it
difficult for them to maintain contact with their families.

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According to the testimony, the strengthening of family relationships has a positive effect on recidivism. Studies also indicate that therapeutic involvement with families during incarceration builds better and stronger relationships between the incarcerated parent's children and the incarcerated parent once the parent is released.

Your Committees are also concerned with the practice of triple-bunking inmates in Hawaii correctional facilities due to overcrowding. While your Committees strongly believe that parent-child relationships should be fostered and maintained throughout the parents' incarceration, it is not the intent of your Committees that the policy encouraged by this measure result in an increase in triple bunking in Hawaii facilities.

This measure has been amended to allow flexibility for parents who are incarcerated on the mainland and wish to stay where they are. This measure has also been amended to provide that there should not be additional triple bunking in Hawaii correctional facilities as a result of this measure.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and Public Safety that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 19, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 19, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services
and Public Housing and Public
Safety,



WILL ESPERO, Chair




SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
HSP

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 19	HSP / PBS	4/12/07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

