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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an estimated 6,000  
2 children in Hawaii have a parent in prison. Many children of  
3 incarcerated parents experience grief, guilt, shame, fear,  
4 depression, and have difficulty sleeping or concentrating.  
5 Although children need to maintain contact with their parent,  
6 visits at correctional facilities can be frightening for some  
7 children.

8           The purpose of this Act is to help maintain the well-being  
9 of children of incarcerated parents and support their needs by  
10 establishing a bill of rights for children of incarcerated  
11 parents.

12           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
14 and to read as follows:

15           "§346-    Bill of rights for children of incarcerated  
16 parents.    Children of incarcerated parents shall be afforded  
17 rights, which shall include the right:



- 1        (1) To be kept safe and informed at the time of the
- 2        parent's arrest;
- 3        (2) To be heard when decisions are made about the child;
- 4        (3) To be considered when decisions are made about the
- 5        child's incarcerated parent;
- 6        (4) To be well cared for in the incarcerated parent's
- 7        absence;
- 8        (5) To speak with, see, and touch their incarcerated
- 9        parent;
- 10       (6) To be supported as the child struggles with the
- 11       parent's incarceration;
- 12       (7) To not be judged, blamed, or labeled because of the
- 13       parent's incarceration; and
- 14       (8) To have a lifelong relationship with the parent."

15       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Children of Incarcerated Parents; Bill of Rights

**Description:**

Establishes a bill of rights for children of incarcerated parents. (HB2764 HD1)

