

JAN 18 2008

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 six
2 thousand children in the State of Hawaii have a parent in
3 prison. Many children of incarcerated parents experience grief,
4 guilt, shame, fear, depression, and have difficulty sleeping or
5 concentrating. Although children need to maintain contact with
6 their parent, visits at correctional facilities can be
7 frightening for some children.

8 The purpose of this Act is to help maintain the well-being
9 of children of incarcerated parents and support their needs.

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

13 "§346- Bill of rights for children of incarcerated
14 parents. Children of incarcerated parents shall be afforded
15 rights, which shall include the right:

16 (1) To be kept safe and informed at the time of the
17 parent's arrest;

18 (2) To be heard when decisions are made about the child;



1 (3) To be considered when decisions are made about the
2 child's incarcerated parent;

3 (4) To be well cared for in the incarcerated parent's
4 absence;

5 (5) To speak with, see, and touch their incarcerated
6 parent;

7 (6) To be supported as the child struggles with the
8 parent's incarceration;

9 (7) To not be judged, blamed, or labeled because of the
10 parent's incarceration; and

11 (8) To have a lifelong relationship with the parent."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Children; Children of Incarcerated Parents; Bill of Rights

Description:

Establishes a bill of rights for children of incarcerated parents.

