

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS TASK FORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The children of incarcerated parents task force
2 was established by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 128 (2005),
3 and was extended by Act 256, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, to
4 enable the task force to continue to develop programs to aid
5 children of incarcerated parents. The task force ceased to
6 exist on December 31, 2007.

7 The purpose of this Act is to re-establish the children of
8 incarcerated parents task force so it can continue to develop
9 programs to aid children of incarcerated parents, strengthen the
10 family bond, and help break the cycle of crime and violence.

11 SECTION 2. The department of public safety and the
12 department of human services shall re-establish the children of
13 incarcerated parents task force previously established by Senate
14 Concurrent Resolution No. 128 (2005) and Act 256, Session Laws
15 of Hawaii 2006, to identify and develop programs and support
16 services for children of incarcerated parents, as well as
17 programs to strengthen the bond between the families. The task
18 force shall be re-established as provided in this Act.



- 1 The goals of the task force are to:
- 2 (1) Develop a system to identify children of incarcerated
- 3 parents;
- 4 (2) Develop programs and support services for these
- 5 children;
- 6 (3) Provide support for incarcerated parents, where
- 7 appropriate;
- 8 (4) Develop programs to strengthen these families; and
- 9 (5) Review other jurisdictions' activities, policies,
- 10 directives, and laws relating to children of
- 11 incarcerated parents to derive best practices models.

12 SECTION 3. The task force shall include the following

13 members:

- 14 (1) The director of public safety or a designee;
- 15 (2) The deputy director of the corrections division of the
- 16 department of public safety or a designee;
- 17 (3) The institutions division administrator of the
- 18 community correctional centers and the correctional
- 19 facilities or a designee;
- 20 (4) The director of health or a designee;
- 21 (5) The director of human services or a designee;



- 1 (6) The executive director of the office of youth services
- 2 or a designee;
- 3 (7) The chief justice of the supreme court or a designee;
- 4 (8) A member of the board of trustees of the office of
- 5 Hawaiian affairs or a designee;
- 6 (9) A representative of the family court of the first
- 7 circuit;
- 8 (10) The superintendent of education or a designee;
- 9 (11) The attorney general or a designee;
- 10 (12) The prosecuting attorney of each county or a designee;
- 11 (13) A representative of the child protective services
- 12 agency of the department of human services;
- 13 (14) The director of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu
- 14 or a designee;
- 15 (15) A representative from the adult probation division of
- 16 the judiciary;
- 17 (16) A member representing each of the county police
- 18 departments appointed by the respective police chiefs;
- 19 (17) A public member with advocacy experience working on
- 20 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
- 21 selected by Blueprint for Change;



- 1 (18) A public member with advocacy experience working on
2 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
3 selected by Child and Family Services;
- 4 (19) A public member with advocacy experience working on
5 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
6 selected by the Community Alliance on Prisons;
- 7 (20) A public member with advocacy experience working on
8 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
9 selected by the Good Beginnings Alliance;
- 10 (21) A public member with advocacy experience working on
11 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
12 selected by the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Project;
- 13 (22) A public member with advocacy experience working on
14 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
15 selected by Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers;
- 16 (23) A public member with advocacy experience working on
17 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
18 selected by Neighborhood Place of Puna;
- 19 (24) A public member with advocacy experience working on
20 behalf of children of incarcerated parents to be
21 selected by Neighborhood Place of Wailuku;



1 (25) Public members with experience working with children
2 of incarcerated parents to be selected by the
3 Children's Justice Center;

4 (26) A representative of the Queen Liliuokalani Children's
5 Center;

6 (27) Representatives of youth groups from the island of
7 Kauai who address the issues of incarcerated parents;

8 (28) A faculty member of the University of Hawaii
9 department of sociology or a designee; and

10 (29) The administrator of the intake service centers of the
11 department of public safety or a designee.

12 The members of the task force shall select the chairperson
13 of the task force from among themselves and shall be reimbursed
14 for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the
15 performance of their duties.

16 SECTION 4. The task force shall be administratively
17 attached to the department of human services. The department of
18 public safety and the department of human services shall each
19 provide administrative, clerical, technical, and professional
20 support services necessary to assist the task force in achieving
21 its purpose as required under this Act. The task force shall
22 cease to exist after December 31, 2010.



1 SECTION 5. The task force shall submit annual reports to
2 the legislature not later than twenty day prior to the convening
3 of the regular sessions of 2009, 2010, and 2011. The task force
4 shall make the reports available to the general public in
5 printed form and on a website accessible to the public over the
6 Internet.

7 The annual reports shall be completed with the assistance
8 of the department of public safety and shall include:

- 9 (1) A summary of significant findings regarding children
10 of incarcerated parents;
- 11 (2) Statewide statistics indicating the number of children
12 with incarcerated parents in the State, including data
13 on age and educational, financial, geographic, and
14 socioeconomic demographics of incarcerated parents;
- 15 (3) Statewide data and data analysis to determine the
16 relationship between specific variables and the
17 frequency of parental incarceration;
- 18 (4) Statewide data and data analysis to determine the
19 relationship between parental incarceration and
20 various adverse outcomes for children of incarcerated
21 parents; and



1 (5) Multiple theoretical models for improving the welfare
 2 and general well-being of children of incarcerated
 3 parents.

4 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much
 6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for data
 7 gathering, data analysis, and compilation of the reports
 8 required by this Act for reimbursement for expenses, including
 9 travel expenses, incurred by the members of the task force, and
 10 for any additional administrative costs.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 12 human services for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

14

INTRODUCED BY: Will Espero
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Report Title:

Prisoners; Children; Incarcerated Parents; Task Force

Description:

Re-establishes the children of incarcerated parents task force, which ceased to exist on December 31, 2007. Appropriates funds.

