

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
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February 26, 2008

Written Testimony  
Only

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: HB 2763, RELATING TO THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED  
PARENTS TASK FORCE**

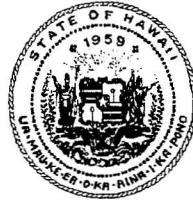
Hearing: Thursday, February 26, 2008, 2:15 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) has reviewed HB 2763 which re-establishes the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force. The OYS was a part of the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force from its inception in 2005 to its end on December 31, 2007. The task force began work to identify children of incarcerated parents and programs and support services for these children and their parents.

We appreciate the intent of this bill, but we are concerned about the cost implications which are outside the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
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CLAYTON A. FRANK  
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING  
Deputy Director  
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TOMMY JOHNSON  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2763  
RELATING TO THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED  
PARENTS TASK FORCE

by  
Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 26, 2008; 2:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Representative Oshiro, Representative Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of House Bill 2763 to re-establish the children of incarcerated parents task force. This task force could develop programs to aid children of incarcerated parents, strengthen the family bond, and help break the cycle of crime and violence. However, PSD is concerned that the appropriations in this bill will impact the priorities in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
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February 26, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2763– RELATING TO THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED  
PARENTS TASK FORCE

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: Re-establishes the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force and appropriates funds.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force was first established by the 2005 Legislature in Senate Concurrent Resolution 128 and extended by Act 256, Relating to Children, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006. The Task Force is to identify and recommend the development of appropriate programs and services for children of incarcerated children.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, but we are concerned about the cost implications which are outside the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, February 26, 2008  
2:15 PM  
Room 308

## **STRONG SUPPORT HB 2763 - CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS TASK FORCE**

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative working on prison reform and criminal justice issues in Hawai`i for a decade. I respectfully offer our testimony, always being mindful that Hawai`i has more than 6,000 people behind bars with more than 2,000 individuals serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their homes and their loved ones.

HB 2763 re-establishes the children of incarcerated parent's task force, which ceased to exist on December 31, 2007 and appropriates funds.

Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports this measure. As Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, I served as Co-Chair of the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force, along with Ted Sakai. Although Act 256 continued the SCR 128 Task Force (2005) in 2006, we did not re-convene until May of 2007. We, therefore, had a mere five months to continue a huge task. Although we did great work in such a short time, there is still much to be done. The need for programs and services for this population is obvious when one looks at the data, which show that these children and youth are six times more likely than other children to end up incarcerated themselves.

### **Still Much Work To Be Done:**

- We still have not developed a system that identifies these children and youth while protecting their privacy rights. That is a pivotal piece in these discussions.
- We cannot develop an appropriate array of programs and services until we know who these children and youth are, their ages, their living situation, and where they go to school, for starters.

The Task Force is still working on 'guesstimate' numbers of children and youth with incarcerated parents. The Department of Public Safety must be mandated to participate since incarcerated parents are processed through their Intake Service Centers and only they can revise their intake forms to capture information about these children and youth. We respectfully ask the committee to either amend the bill to bring PSD to the table or note that this is the committee's intent in the committee report.

### What the Task Accomplished:

- **Survey at Hilo Community Correctional Center.** In 2007 Task Force members from Hawai'i Island distributed a preliminary survey at the Hilo Community Correctional Center. That data is incorporated in our Report to the Legislature dated January 2007. The Task Force would like to gather more data at all facilities holding Hawai'i's incarcerated parents. The Hawai'i Island survey was led by Dr. Marilyn Brown and captured much valuable data.
- **Community Gatherings.** The Task Force held community meetings and gatherings on three islands.
  - \* **Hawai'i Island:** Hilo and Kona
  - \* **Maui:** Wailuku
  - \* **O`ahu:** Wai`anae and Honolulu

Our community meetings revealed the dearth of support services for caregivers. Some children do go into the child care system of the Department of Human Services, but many children are cared for by family members who receive little to no support. The lack of support for caregivers was a theme repeated over and over in every community gathering. The problem of how to identify caregivers, as well as the children they care for, is another issue with which the Task Force is grappling. Identifying caregivers appears to be as huge a problem as identifying the children of incarcerated parents.

### Problems Encountered by the Task Force:

Act 256 allocated \$25,000 to the Department of Human Services. I have never received a final tally of what was spent, but it is under \$5,000. The balance of the allocated funding was returned to the general fund.

The problem we encountered was that the Task Force then had to identify non-profits on every island to accept the funding. After we did that, we were then told that they wouldn't actually get the funding, but would be reimbursed for funds expended. This meant that non-profit agencies had to advance the funding to this Legislative Task Force and then await reimbursement by the state. This is not what we were told when the Task Force convened and we were all stunned by this revelation after agreements were signed.

I am, therefore, wondering if there is some other system that could be employed to avoid having non-profits use their meager funds to pay for travel and activities for a Legislative-appointed task force and then have to wait for reimbursement by the state. This issue has created problems, frustration, and resentment. Is there some way the Legislature could help in this area?

The Task Force believes that providing services to these children and assistance to their caregivers will benefit the state in the long run by stopping generational incarceration. In order for the Task Force to complete its work, we need more time, more thoughtful input from caregivers, service providers, and more participation from agencies.

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force supports HB 2763 and is committed to developing a system of identification and recommendations for programs and services to support these children and their caregivers that protects their privacy and assists them in reaching their full potential.

Community Alliance on Prisons, therefore, urges the committee to pass HB 2763 to address inter-generational incarceration. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Joseph Fichter, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser  
Permanente Medical Care System  
Aloha Pride Center  
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI  
Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Community Assistance Center  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Support Services of West Hawaii  
Foster Family Programs of Hawaii  
Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Hawaii Behavioral Health  
Hawaii Foster Parent Association  
Hawaii Student Television  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition  
Hina Mauka Teen Care  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
Kama'aina Kids, Inc.  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Behavioral Health  
Kids Hurt Too  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
The Maui Farm, Inc.  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.  
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.  
Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center  
Turning Point for Families  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
World Healing Institute  
YWCA of Kauai

February 25, 2008

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## Testimony in Support of HB 2763 Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than fifty youth-serving organizations, supports HB 2763 Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force.

More than 6,000 children in Hawaii have a parent who is incarcerated. These children are seven times more likely to enter juvenile or adult prisons. They experience problems in school, are at high risk for substance abuse, and suffer emotional trauma, grief, and loss.

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force has determined that there is little data available locally about these children and their families and few resources in our state for this population. It has brought together service providers, government officials, and family members to begin dialogue about service and policy needs. This work is not yet completed and Task Force members need more time to work with the government, non-profit, business, and faith-based communities to develop data collection systems; adopt model programs that have worked in other communities; and establish policies in our law enforcement, public safety, and child welfare systems to support children of incarcerated parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, February 28, 2008  
Room 308 at 2:15 pm

**SUPPORT: HB 2763 Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force**

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carrie Ann Shirota, and I am writing in support of HB 2763 Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force. My experiences as a former Civil Rights Enforcement Attorney and Public Defender, and current staff of a reentry program on Maui have shaped my advocacy efforts to promote accountability and transparency within our correctional system, and better prepare incarcerated persons for their return home as law-abiding, contributing members of their `ohana and our community. Similarly, I support policies that provide training and support to family members affected by incarceration.

The purpose of HB 2763 is to re-establish the children of incarcerated parents task force, which ceased to exist on December 31, 2007 and appropriates funds. I support this measure for the following reasons:

- National data shows that children whose parents are incarcerated are six to seven times more likely than other children to end up incarcerated themselves
- Hawai`i 'guesstimates' there are more than 6,000 children with incarcerated parents. In order to provide services to this vulnerable population, we need accurate data.
- Currently there are no state services afforded these children
- The Task Force has started collecting data, but needs more time to complete its work in Developing a system to identify children of incarcerated parents; develop programs and support services for these children; provide support for incarcerated parents, develop family strengthening programs and review other activities, policies, directives, and laws relating to children of incarcerated parents to derive best practices models.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2763!

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.  
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