

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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LATE

Joseph Fichter, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanent 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 (FACT)
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

March 27, 2008

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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