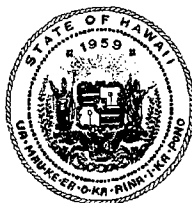


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

CLAYTON A. FRANK
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING
Deputy Director
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2763, HD1
RELATING TO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED
PARENTS TASK FORCE**

by

Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2008; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara, Senator Espero, Senator Nishihara, and
Members of Both Committees:

The Department of Public Safety has concerns regarding HB 2763, HD1,
which seeks to re-establish the children of incarcerated parents task force, which
ceased to exist on December 31, 2007. We are concerned that section six of this
measure may require an additional appropriation of funds that would adversely impact
the priorities as outlined in the Governor's executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Thursday, March 13, 2008
Room 16 at 1:15 p.m.

LATE

In support of HB 2763 HD1 Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kristin Tachibana and I am a student in the University of Hawaii's School of Social Work Program. My experience in working with individuals and families in Hawaii is they greatly value family and family togetherness. When parents are incarcerated, the family is abruptly torn apart. Our responsibility is to ensure the bond between parents and children are strengthened during this difficult time. Additionally, children should receive the necessary supports to try and maintain a "normal" childhood while their mother or father is incarcerated. Children of incarcerated parents are at-risk for various behavior problems in school and in the home, emotional issues, and also intergenerational incarceration.

My grandfather was incarcerated on the island of Kaua'i for most of my childhood. At that time, we were not involved in any programs or activities to bring us closer to our grandfather. Sadly, I wasn't able to form a bond with my grandfather. In addition, a very dear friend of mine, also from Hawaii, had a parent incarcerated in California during much of his teenage years. His relationship with his father suffered because of the distance between them. Now in his 30's, he has slowly started to repair that relationship. Had there been supports for him to deal with the separation, there may have not been a disconnect between father and son over the years.

Passing this measure and allowing the task force to continue its work will help prevent children from slipping through the cracks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kristin Tachibana
(808) 295-7538
ktachiba@hawaii.edu



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawaii

LATE

March 13, 2008

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To: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Committee on Public Safety

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

Re: HB2763 HD1 Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Taskforce
Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2008, 1:15 p.m.

Position: Strong Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii testifies today in strong support of this measure.

It is anecdotally estimated that there are 6,000 children in Hawaii with incarcerated parents. These children are six to seven times more likely than other children to become incarcerated themselves.

Alarming, there are no current services for these children. If we are to reduce the current trend of increasing incarceration rates and increasing prison costs, we must address the various factors that contribute to incarceration.

This proposal to continue the work of the taskforce will allow them to:

- Develop a system to identify children of incarcerated parents;
- Develop programs and support services for these children;
- Provide support for incarcerated parents, where appropriate;
- Develop programs to strengthen these families; and
- Review other jurisdiction's activities, policies, directives, and laws relating to children of incarcerated parents to derive best practices models.

The establishment of services and programs to children of incarcerated parents will help strengthen families and motivate parents to rebuild both their lives and those of their children. Retaining these familial relationships helps to reduce recidivism.

Please pass this measure with a recommendation for full funding of the taskforce.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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LINDA LINGLE
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LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
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HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 13, 2008

LATE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2763, H.D. 1- RELATING TO THE CHILDREN OF
INCARCERATED PARENTS TASK FORCE
Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: Re-establishes the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force to December 31, 2011 and appropriates funds.

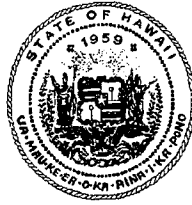
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, but we are concerned about the cost implications which are outside the Executive Supplemental Budget.. We would also recommend the extension of the Task Force on a yearly basis (not to 2011 as proposed in this bill) in order to evaluate the progress made and to adjust the needs.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LATE

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2008; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara, Senator Espero, Senator Nishihara, and
Members of Both Committees:

The Department of Public Safety has concerns regarding HB 2763, HD1, which seeks to re-establish the children of incarcerated parents task force, which ceased to exist on December 31, 2007. We are concerned that section six of this measure may require an additional appropriation of funds that would adversely impact the priorities as outlined in the Governor's executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Phone/E-mail: (808) 533-3454/communityallianceonprisons@hotmail.com

LATE



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

LATE

Thursday, March 13, 2008

1:15 PM

Room 016

STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2763 HD1 –Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero 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 HD1 re-establishes the children of incarcerated parents 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. The 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 Force 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 actually spent, but it was probably around \$10,000 including interisland travel, task force and community meetings and the contract with the facilitator. 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 children and youth, 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 that protects their privacy and assists them in reaching their full potential.

Community Alliance on Prisons, therefore, urges the committees to pass HB 2763 HD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.