

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 162
URGING THE PROVISIONS OF EDUCATION TO INCARCERATED PARENTS TO
ENSURE CHILD SUPPORT ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED WITHOUT DELAY AND
UPON RELEASE, TO PREPARE THEM FOR REINTEGRATION WITH THEIR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING GRANDPARENTS WHO HAVE RAISED
THEIR CHILDREN**

by
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2010; 9:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Hanohano, Representative Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is unable to support this measure at this time. As written, this measure request's PSD make mandatory participation in parenting classes for all offenders that are parents, and requests PSD enhance the parenting class by including training regarding how soon-to-be-released parents can:

1. Renew contacts with their children and grandparents and other family members caring for their children;
2. Prevent or avoid conflict and disrupting the lives of their children and grandparents who have been raising their children; and
3. Prepare themselves for assuming full responsibility as a parent.

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, PSD no longer offers parenting classes for offenders incarcerated in our State facilities. Therefore, we are unable to comply with the provisions of this measure as they relate to our facilities. However, we do continue to offer parenting classes for those incarcerated on the mainland at the Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona.

This measure also requests that PSD inform parents being incarcerated that it is their responsibility to contact the respective court in reference to child support obligations and to inform the court of their inability to pay child support due to incarceration, which PSD can do. PSD respectfully requests clarity regarding the length of the incarceration period that would trigger notification to the parent being incarcerated.

Further, at present PSD provides a monthly report to the Department of Human Services of all persons in our custody and care, which is used to assist in determining eligibility for various State and Federal benefits. This same report can be provided to the Judiciary for dissemination to the appropriate court having jurisdiction over the incarcerated parent's child support case. We believe this to be an efficient way to notify the courts of all persons incarcerated during any given month. Another avenue for the courts to be notified would be to simply require the Judiciary to internally notify the respective court having jurisdiction over child support cases of an order to incarcerate a parent that originates from another court within the Judiciary.

Finally, as currently written, PSD cannot support provisions of HCR 162 and must oppose it as it is impractical, has unbudgeted fiscal impact, and negatively affects the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

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

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

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Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment Center (Formerly Children's Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

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

College Connections

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

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Helela Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalih Valley

Life Foundation

Maeimed 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

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center - Kona Unit

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

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 17, 2010

To: Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
And members of the Committee on Public Safety

Testimony in Support of HCR162 and HR 100 Urging the Provision of Education to Incarcerated Parents to ensure Child Support Issues are Addressed Without Delay and Upon Release, to Prepare Them for Reintegration with their Children and Families, including Grandparents Who Have Raised Their Children

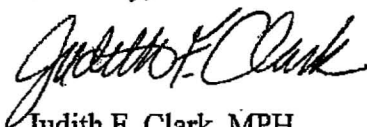
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 162 and HR 100 Urging the Provision of Education to Incarcerated Parents to ensure Child Support Issues are Addressed Without Delay and Upon Release, to Prepare Them for Reintegration with their Children and Families, including Grandparents Who Have Raised Their Children

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.

Education and supports that help to maintain the parent-child relationship during incarceration and address re-entry to community issues benefit all family members and reduce the stress and trauma experienced by the children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Room 309

SUPPORT INTENT - HCR 162 - Educating incarcerated parents

PBSTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a diverse community initiative working to improve conditions of confinement for Hawai'i's incarcerated individuals, enhance the quality of justice, and promote public safety by supporting smart justice policies. We come today to speak for the 6,000+ individuals whose voices have been silenced by incarceration, always mindful that almost 2,000 of those individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles from their homes and loved ones.

HCR 162 urges the provision of education to ensure child support issues are addressed without delay and upon release to prepare them for reintegration with their children and families, including grandparents who have raised their children.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports the good intention of this measure. And we want to thank all the grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. You are the heroes.

We assert that the Department of Public Safety can help incarcerated parents reenter the family by:

➤ **Supporting and encouraging family visitation**

This has been an ongoing problem because visits at Hawai'i facilities are often cancelled because of staff shortages.

➤ **Promoting family activities throughout the incarceration of the individual (Kids Day, Teen Night, etc.)**

There are programs at some facilities for parents with young children (not enough), but very little for teens with an incarcerated parent. In CAP's experience, parents returning home often have the most difficult time reconnecting with their teenage children. Encouraging connection before release can help smooth this transition.

- **Bringing children and parents together in facilitated groups or sessions to promote reintegration**
The Community Safety Act of 2007 – Hawai'i's Reentry Law – states that reentry begins the day an individual is incarcerated. Family reunification (in situations where it is appropriate) is part of reentry and must be incorporated in all programming.
- **Advising parents of the laws and their responsibilities**
This information must be part of the overall programming during the individual's incarceration. Giving a person a list of obligations to be fulfilled as they are walking out the door is NOT helpful. This information must be integrated into the individual's programming throughout incarceration.
- **Assisting parents to meet the obligations of parenthood**
Most individuals exit incarceration with long lists of debts, obligations, conditions, etc. It is important that the correctional system change its philosophy from punishment to *correcting* behavior. This would start with accountability on the side of PSD to model the behavior that is expected of individuals when they return to their communities.

In summary, we support the good intent of this measure and hope that the committee sees that PSD must help individuals maintain connections with their loved ones throughout their incarceration so that the return to their families and our communities will be less traumatic for all.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

aquino1-Ruffalyne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 1:03 AM
To: PBStestimony
Cc: pohuku@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR162 on 3/18/2010 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for PBS 3/18/2010 9:00:00 AM HCR162

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Evern E Williams
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Submitted on: 3/17/2010

Comments:
I support the intent of this legislation