

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser  
Permanent 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 Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

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-Heeala Ecumenical Youth)  
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihii Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

Life Foundation

Marlmed 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

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 23, 2011

To: Representative Henry Aquino, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 207/HR 178 URGING THE  
GOVERNOR TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS AND PLANS TO  
ESTABLISH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO BUILD  
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth-serving organizations supports HCR 207/HR 178.

When incarcerated persons and their families are able to maintain strong family bonds, there are substantial benefits to family members (particularly the children), the prisoner, and to the correctional facility administration. It is extremely difficult to sustain family ties when the prisoner is housed thousands of miles away.

Children of incarcerated parents experience grief and loss, similar to the experience of divorce or the death of a parent. Studies show that children of incarcerated parents are at increased risk of abuse or neglect, and more likely to have mental problems, and difficulty in school. Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to enter the juvenile or adult correctional systems themselves. Providing opportunities to sustain the parent-child bond can alleviate many of these problems.

Prisoners who have regular contact with family members benefit as well. They are less likely to violate prison rules and create trouble for prison authorities. They are more likely to take advantage of rehabilitation and educational opportunities while in prison. Regular contact with family members increases the chances of successful reintegration into the community when a person is released from prison.




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Hawaii Youth Services Network believes that children and their incarcerated parents would benefit considerably from housing prisoners within the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director