

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the growing prison
2 population has raised serious concerns regarding the collateral
3 effects of incarceration on children, families, and communities.
4 According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics' most
5 recent study on incarcerated parents in the United States, more
6 than 1,700,000 minors, representing 2.3 per cent of the
7 population, have at least one incarcerated parent.

8 The legislature further finds that the incarceration of a
9 parent is a traumatic event for children. Studies show that a
10 substantial number of incarcerated parents were deeply involved
11 in their children's lives before imprisonment by providing daily
12 care, as well as financial and emotional support. Studies also
13 show that the incarceration of a parent is likely to result in
14 unstable family relationships, poor academic performance,
15 financial instability, material hardship, and social stigma.

16 Providing social services and programs for children who
17 have a parent in the prison system supports the children's
18 emotional and behavioral well-being. Furthermore, providing



S.B. NO. 2308

Report Title:

Incarcerated Parents; Children; Programs and Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to the department of public safety for programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and to assist with family reunification.

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