

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 2308, SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1
RELATING TO CHILDREN

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in **support** of SB 2308, SD 1 Relating to Children. The Department supports providing social services and programs for the children who have a parent(s) in the prison system.

It is well established that children of incarcerated parents are far more likely than other children to eventually become enmeshed in the criminal justice system. National research shows that they are seven times more likely to become incarcerated as adults. If for that alone, we need to do much more for these children. In addition, however, programs which promote family reunification improve the offender's chances for a successful parole, and improve behavior while in prison. We know that such programs are viable, and we do have some strong local models, such as Supporting Keiki of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) and the Fathers Bridging the Miles programs.

We recognize that we need to expand on our limited program offerings for inmates with children. Currently, our programs are limited to contracts with qualified private vendors to provide individual and family therapy sessions to male and female inmates with substance abuse issues, who are preparing to transition to the community after a lengthy period of incarceration. The program attempts to address family core issues, prior to the inmate's placement on furlough, and build a support system to benefit both inmate and child(ren).

SB 2308, SD 1 will provide PSD the opportunity to expand these types of programs to all willing inmates with children. We support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 27, 2014

3:00 p.m.

Room 308

SUPPORT SB 2308 SD1- FUNDING for CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, community initiative promoting smart justice policies for more than a decade. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,800 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that approximately 1,500 Hawai'i individuals are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 2308 SD1 makes an appropriation to the department of public safety for programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and to assist with family reunification.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure. Research shows that children with incarcerated parents are seven times more likely than other children to end up incarcerated themselves.

We have served as Co-Chair of the Children of Incarcerated Task Force and have reviewed numerous research and data on this important issue. It has been estimated that there are 6,000 children in Hawai'i with incarcerated parents. We need to pay attention to this and provide the necessary services and support to children and their caregivers, who currently received little to no support from the state.

"Children who have a parent in jail or prison are prone to unique stresses that do not impact many of their peers whose parents are not incarcerated. An estimated 1.7 million children have a parent in prison at any given time within the United States. Correlation has been found between incarcerated parents (both present and past) and higher rates of arrest, substance abuse, and school and behavioral problems. Children of incarcerated parents are also more than twice as likely to be incarcerated themselves. Reaching out to provide support for these children is essential, says Julie Poehlmann from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Human Ecology. Her research shows that if children bond with a caregiver, they are more likely to avoid negative outcomes. But the

majority of children need additional outreach, which at this point, schools and other agencies are not able to provide.”¹

“Children whose parents have been arrested and incarcerated face unique difficulties. Many have experienced the trauma of sudden separation from their sole caregiver, and most are vulnerable to feelings of fear, anxiety, anger, sadness, depression and guilt. They may be moved from caretaker to caretaker. The behavioral consequences can be severe, absent positive intervention – emotional withdrawal, failure in school, delinquency and risk of intergenerational incarceration”².

“Many incarcerated women have had a family member in prison (U.S. General Accounting Office, 1999), which suggests the risk of a cycle of criminal behavior. **If we don’t pay attention to the needs of children of incarcerated parents and thereby jeopardize their chances of growing up into competent and caring adults, taxpayers and society may bear additional costs beyond that of their parent’s incarceration.**”³

By investing in these children now, we can break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration and help each of our keiki reach their fullest potential and social goals.

Please support this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Therapy News © Copyright 2010 by www.GoodTherapy.org. Minneapolis Bureau
<http://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/psychological-children-incarcerated-parents/>

² *Children with Parents in Prison: Child Welfare Policy, Program, and Practice Issues*, Cynthia Seymour, Child Welfare, Special Issue, Children with Parents in Prison, Child Welfare League of America, Vol. LXXVII, September/October 1996, p. 472. <http://lms.ctl.cyut.edu.tw/sysdata/9/18209/doc/86e449d2c57bbbea/attach/705369.pdf>

³ *New Study Shows Children of Incarcerated Mothers Experience Multiple Challenges*, Family Matters, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Volume 3 Issue 2, October 2003.
http://www.familyimpactseminars.org/fia_nlarticle_v3i2.pdf

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 2:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ramona@lava.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2308 on Mar 27, 2014 15:00PM

SB2308

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for FIN on Mar 27, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the children of people in prison with the appropriate services. These are children who have lost their parent and suffer as all children do in that situation. Counseling and regular visits are minimums. This is for the good of our whole community as well as those individual children who are affected.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2308 on Mar 27, 2014 15:00PM

SB2308

Submitted on: 3/26/2014

Testimony for FIN on Mar 27, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support.

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LATE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chairperson
Honorable Representatives Scott Nishimoto & Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairpersons
Thursday, March 27, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT SB 2308 SD1- RELATING TO CHILDREN; SB 2315 SD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO PROVIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES; and SB 2884 SD2 RELATING TO PAROLE

Please vote yes to pass these three measures to improve our corrections strategies to make our community safer and healthier.

SB 2308 SD1 Relating to Children would give the department of public safety funding to assist the children of imprisoned parents and help with family reunification for imprisoned people. We have done research and written on the importance of assisting children and families deal with the effects of incarceration on their lives. A paper we wrote is forthcoming in a book being edited by law professors Tali Gal at Haifa University, Israel, and Benedetta Faedi Duramy at Golden Gate University, California, being published by the Oxford University Press. Also research on criminal desistance by Dr. Shadd Maruna, Queen's University, Ireland, discussed in his numerous publications including *Making Good: How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild Their Lives* shows how vital it is for the rehabilitation of people in prison to make amends with family.

SB 2315 SD1 Making an Appropriation for the Department of Public Safety to Provide Substance Abuse Treatment Services would provide funding for drug and alcohol treatment at Halawa prison. It is common knowledge well supported by research that the motivation for many crimes is substance abuse. This appropriation is absolutely necessary for the protection of our community.

SB 2884 SD2 Relating to Parole makes clear that funds may be provided for people leaving incarceration and clarifies other parole matters. This measure is also in the best interests of our community.

All three measures are a step in making our corrections system more effective for rehabilitation, which makes our community safer and healthier. Please contact Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH (808) 218-3712 or lorenn@hawaii.edu if you have any questions about our work since our non-profit incorporation established to improve the justice system in Hawai'i since 1980.

Thank you for your time and efforts serving the public and our community.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
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
Kaanalike
Kahi Mo'hala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Hee'ia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kailihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
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
YWCA of Kauai

LATE

March 28, 2014

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2308 SD 1 RELATING TO CHILDREN

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2308 Relating to Children.

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 their children 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 children increases the chances of successful reintegration into the community when a parent is released from prison.

Hawaii Youth Services Network believes that children and their incarcerated parents will benefit from parent/child support programs in Hawaii's prisons.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark MPH