



SB 2308

Measure Title: RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): ESPERO, BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, GREEN, Galuteria

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Bay Clinic, Inc.
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 Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi 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

January 28, 2014

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2308 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,

