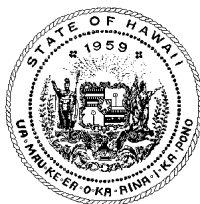


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 2308
RELATING TO CHILDREN

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 13, 2014; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in **support** of SB 2308, 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 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kat.caphi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2308 on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 8:14:24 AM

SB2308

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Brady	Community Alliance on Prisons	Support	No

Comments: Please support this measure. Kids whose parents are incarcerated are 6-7 times more likely than other children to be incarcerated themselves. Let's close off this pipeline by addressing the needs of these children and youth. Mahalo!

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HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

February 11, 2014

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: green_thumb@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2308 on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:21:47 PM

SB2308

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Welsh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2308 on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 3:22:33 PM

SB2308

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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