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GOVERNOR



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Deputy Director
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Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
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Corrections

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Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2160
RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2018; 8:55 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chairs Takayama and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Gates and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of House Bill (HB) 2160, and should the measure pass, would look forward to collaborating with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services (DHS-CWS) Division, the family reunification working group, and other entities to develop a viable program that furthers the purposes of the bill.

It should be noted that the Department's current programs, such as, Keiki O Ka Aina (Play and Learn), Read Aloud, Read-to-me, Keala Hou, Family Days at WCCC, etc., provide incarcerated parent(s) with opportunities to learn parenting skills and other child-bonding activities. These individuals also receive support services and family therapy as they transition through to the community, all of which serve to prepare incarcerated parents to participate in a visitation program and maximize the success of the program.

PSD appreciates the impetus of the proposal and offers the following comments.

Research has shown that although the environment in which the visits take place is important, child-parent bonding is better supported by regular visitations and increasing parental skills in proper parenting and cognitive programming, which the incarcerated parent can learn through training in prosocial and proactive parenting, the provision of appropriate support services (inclusive of therapy) for the child(ren), and support resources available to the caretakers of said child(ren).

Because the parents are offenders, the Department is concerned that the visitation centers be safe and secure while providing a caring and nurturing environment for all participants. Ideally, this would include wrap-around support services for the child(ren), incarcerated parent(s), and caretaker(s). PSD suggests that consideration be given to placing the Visitation Centers in the community where children and caretakers have easy access to incarcerated parents, perhaps in close proximity to Work Furlough program sites.

PSD looks forward to continuing its work with DHS-CWS and community partners to enhance a sound and effective family reunification process ensuring that Court Order Visits, Special Visits, and available parenting classes are provided to incarcerated parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



**Office of the Public Defender
State of Hawaii**



**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender
to the House Committee on Public Safety and
the House Committee on Health and Human Services**

February 9, 2018

H.B. No. 2160: RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS

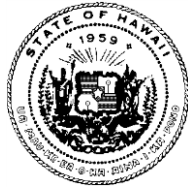
Chair Gregg Takayama, Chair John M. Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports passage of H.B. No. 2160. We support any effort to maintain and foster the bonds between incarcerated parents and their children. Opportunities for incarcerated parents to have meaningful in-person contact visits with their children are increasingly being restricted. “No contact” visits are now the standard practice at the Halawa Correctional Center and at the Oahu Community Correctional Center. An incarcerated parent with a child can no longer hold or sit with their child. They must speak through glass or clear plastic partitions. Our office supports this Bill as we believe maintaining the parent-child bond is in the public interest, in the best interest of the child(ren), and in the best interest of families.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. No. 2160.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96808

February 9, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2160- RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 8:55 am
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill to support appropriate child-parent relationships of children of incarcerated parents, and provides comments. DHS defers to the Department of Public Safety.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require the establishment of a pilot visitation center or centers for children of incarcerated parents in correctional facilities in the State and a plan for visitation centers at all state operated correctional facilities. Appropriates funds to the department of human services to work with other stakeholders to implement this Act.

DHS is open to further discussions and collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Family Reunification Working Group, and other stakeholders to develop a plan to develop visitation centers at the state's correctional facilities.

DHS requests clarification of Section 4, as to the expectation that the funds appropriated would result in a state wide plan, as well as a pilot visitation center.

DHS respectfully request that this appropriation not supplant department budget priorities identified in the Governor's supplemental budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 8, 2018

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
And member of the Committee on Public Safety

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2160 RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS

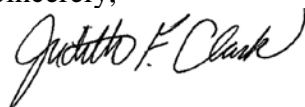
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2160 Relating to Incarcerated Parents.

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. Regular visitation provides opportunities to sustain the parent-child bond while a parent is incarcerated, which 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 3:45:56 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committees on Public Safety and Health and Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, 8:55 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in strong support of H.B. 2160

Dear Chairs Takayama and Mizuno and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in strong support of H.B. 2160.

Planned Parenthood is firmly committed to creating a world in which all women and families can decide when, if, and in what manner they decide to have children. Further, we are committed to reproductive justice, which means we must also work to create a world in which those children are born into communities that are safe, healthy, and just. H.B. 2160 promotes reproductive justice by improving visitation programs between incarcerated individuals and their families, helping them to heal and rehabilitate and to break the cycle of incarceration.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

8:55 am

Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 2160 - FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS

Aloha Chairs Takayama & Mizuno, Vice Chairs Gates & Kobayashi and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 2160 requires the establishment of a pilot visitation center or centers for children of incarcerated parents in correctional facilities in the State and a plan for visitation centers at all state operated correctional facilities. The bill appropriates funds to the department of human services to work with other stakeholders to implement this Act.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure. The importance of maintaining connections with loved ones is a vital piece toward successful reintegration.

Hawai'i has a small and welcoming room for Moms and their small children at the Women's Correctional Center in Kailua called Keiki Hale. This room happened almost 20 years ago through a collaboration of community, incarcerated women, and Hardware Hawai'i in Kailua. A storeroom was transformed into a cartoon wonderland painted by the talented women at WCCC. When Gov. Cayetano saw the room, he asked cabinet members to ask their departments for donations. They poured in and the room was furnished with a soft rug, rocking chairs, bookcases, toys, books, and games. A true community effort to bring some degree of normalcy to what can be a very dark place.

Keiki Hale demonstrates an effort 20 years ago to acknowledge the importance of families maintaining contact. This bill addresses the difficulties faced by children whose parent(s) are incarcerated. The separation faced by these children manifests itself in many different ways.

The Department of Public Safety has a 25-page Visitation Policy – COR.15.4: VISITATION¹ – that was significantly amended on May 5, 2017.

In 2017, I presented at The International Coalition for the Children of Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP) conference in Aotearoa. Fostering and maintaining family connections was front and center as presenters from Scotland, Hong Kong, Australia, the U.S., and Korea spoke passionately about the enormous impacts incarceration has, not only on individual families, but on the community as a whole. It was uplifting to hear others finding innovative ways to enhance connections, build better familiar relationships, help those who are incarcerated understand the impacts of their actions on their loved ones. These are human challenges that we CAN address and ameliorate.

THE RESEARCH

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS. (2011)²

The separation between child and parent due to incarceration can result in feelings of guilt and shame, social stigma, loss of financial support, weakened ties to the parent, poor school performance, increased delinquency, and increased risk of abuse or neglect. Visitation, as one paper points out, “substantially decreases the negative impacts of incarceration by preserving the child’s relationship with the parent.”

This study further points to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights, developed by the San Francisco Partnership for Incarcerated Parents, which states, “I have the right to speak with, see, and touch my parent.”

Best practice requires that barriers to parent-child visits be addressed. These include:

- Inadequate information about visiting procedures.
- Difficulty scheduling visits.
- Geographic location of prison facilities.
- Family’s inability to afford transportation.
- Visiting procedures that are uncomfortable or humiliating.
- Visiting rooms that are inhospitable to children.
- Foster parents or caregivers who are unwilling to facilitate visits.

¹ Department of Public Safety, COR.15.4: VISITATION. <https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/COR.15.04.pdf>

² ***Connecting children with incarcerated parents.*** Child Protection Best Practices Bulletin. (2011). <http://childlaw.unm.edu/docs/BEST-PRACTICES/Connecting%20Children%20with%20Incarcerated%20Parents%20%282011%29.pdf>

Studies have consistently found that prisoners who maintain close contact with their family members while incarcerated have better post-release outcomes and lower recidivism rates. These findings represent a body of research stretching back over 40 years.³

EXPLORATIONS IN INMATE-FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS (1972)⁴

“The central finding of this research is the strong and consistent positive relationship that exists between parole success and maintaining strong family ties while in prison. Only 50 percent of the ‘no contact’ inmates completed their first year on parole without being arrested, while 70 percent of those with three visitors were ‘arrest free’ during this period. In addition, the ‘loners’ were six times more likely to wind up back in prison during the first year (12 percent returned compared to 2 percent for those with three or more visitors). For all Base Expectancy levels, we found that those who maintained closer ties performed more satisfactorily on parole.”

PILOTING A TOOL FOR REENTRY (2011)⁵

“Research shows that incarcerated people who maintain supportive relationships with family members have better outcomes – such as stable housing and employment – when they return to the community. Many corrections practitioners and policy makers intuitively understand the positive role families can play in the reentry process, but they often do not know how to help people in prison draw on these social supports.”

THE FAMILY AND RECIDIVISM (2012)⁶

“Incarcerated men and women who maintain contact with supportive family members are more likely to succeed after their release.... Research on people returning from prison shows that family members can be valuable sources of support during incarceration and after release. For example, prison inmates who had more contact with their families and who reported positive relationships overall are less likely to be re-incarcerated.”

³ Lowering Recidivism through Family Communication, Loaded on APRIL 15, 2014 by Alex Friedmann published in Prison Legal News April, 2014, page 24. <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2014/apr/15/lowering-recidivism-through-family-communication/>

⁴ EXPLORATIONS IN INMATE-FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, N HOLT ; D MILLER, California State Dept of Correction, 1972. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=2459>; <http://www.fcnetwork.org/reading/holt-miller/holt-millersum.html>

⁵ PILOTING A TOOL FOR REENTRY, Vera Institute of Justice, 2011. <http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/Piloting-a-Tool-for-Reentry-Updated.pdf>

⁶ THE FAMILY AND RECIDIVISM, Vera Institute for Justice, October 2012. <http://www.vera.org/files/the-family-and-recidivism.pdf>

WHY THIS ISSUE IS SO URGENT RIGHT NOW

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for OCCC, WCCC and the Department of Agriculture contains a section that has presented the justification for the urgent need to establish Family Visitation Centers at our correctional facilities. Here is the section on Visitation:

DEIS FOR REPLACEMENT OF OCCC

VOLUME 1 – APPENDIX F – Interim Architectural Space Program & Site Fitness Study page 11

https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Appendix-Volume-1_A-F.pdf

(page 468 in pdf link above)

2.0 Visitation

Located partially outside of security, this area will include facilities for video visitation as well as limited court functions. Various technologies will be considered for this function. **Persons visiting an inmate will enter this area from the lobby and use designated video provided; inmates will be using the video visitation booths in their respective housing units. The only contact visits allowed will be with attorneys.** Additionally, a nocontact visit area is provided for limited use. Visits will be scheduled; the hours of operation for visitation may be adjusted from time to time as needed.

A separate section in this area will be dedicated for District Court and Circuit Court proceedings, many of which will be by video. A limited amount of space is provided for judicial staff adjacent the courtrooms. Inmates will be escorted to this area from 'inside' the secure area for their court appearance. Inmate waiting and processing spaces will be provided. Searches will be done before they are returned to their housing units. Attorney and limited public access to this area is from the public lobby. The hours of operation of this area will be determined by the courts calendar. When not in use, it will be locked down.

This defies all the research that shows that connectivity is what helps people heal. Children have always been the best motivators for change. I have many stories written on my heart about families who have overcome significant obstacles to make better lives for their children. We can make this work in Hawai'i. A gentleman from a private prison in Wales spoke about a program he helped start where a non-profit group staffs the center that is near a minimum-security prison where the men are preparing to reenter their communities. The center is open every day and children come in and do their homework with their Dads.

The power of a simple touch is an amazing thing. As humans, we're designed to connect with other people. We need to be touched in order to feel loved, safe and even healthy. Research has shown that people who connect with others more often in a physical way, tend to be mentally and physically healthier than those who fly solo.

Community Alliance on Prisons
PBS/HHS Committees – STRONG SUPPORT: HB2160
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 8:55 am – Room 329
Page Five...

In 1998, the Department of Justice came to Hawai`i; we were 1 of 8 jurisdictions they visited. After their hearings in Hawai`i, they said that the degree of intergenerational incarceration in Hawai`i was greater than they had found in any other place. We have known that this is something we must address for 20 years. It is time to get this pilot program rolling to start healing imprisoned people and those they love.

Family Visitation Centers that are run by nonprofit organizations provide a safe, welcoming atmosphere that are staffed with social workers and behavioral specialists to assist families in building healthy relationships. Facilitating connections between imprisoned people and those they love is a benefit to the facility, the imprisoned person, the family of the imprisoned person, and especially the children – who love and need to “know” their parent. These centers are a great strategy to address intergenerational incarceration.

Community Alliance on Prisons thanks the committee for hearing this bill and we urge its passage with a recommendation to FIN for adequate funding.

The power of a simple touch is an amazing thing.

As humans, we're designed to connect with other people.

We need to be touched in order to feel loved, safe and even healthy.

Research has shown that people who connect with others more often in a physical way, tend to be mentally and physically healthier than those who fly solo.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Guy Archer	Jan Lubin	Cameron Sato	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	George Simson	Honolulu
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer	Gloria Borland	Stephen O'Harrow		Hawai'i 96823
Karin Gill, Secretary	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle		

February 11, 2018

TO: Honorable Chairs Takayama and Mizuno Members of the PBS & HHS Committees

RE: HB 2160 Relating to Incarcerated Parents

Support for hearing on Feb. 13

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 2160 for a pilot visitation center for children of incarcerated parents. We see no reason to punish the children of convicts. They deserve as much normal family time as can be given under the circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 2160 -- Relating to Incarcerated Parents
House Committees on Public Safety and on Health & Human Services
Scheduled for Hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 8:55 AM, Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Takayama and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Gates and Kobayashi, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **HB 2160**, which would require the establishment of a pilot visitation center or centers for children of incarcerated parents in correctional facilities in the state and a plan for visitation centers at all state-operated correctional facilities.

Finding ways to increase contact between incarcerated people and their loved ones is good for incarcerated individuals, their families, and even prisons. Research has shown that family contact is one of the surest ways to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. For incarcerated mothers, studies have found that more contact with their children is associated with lower depression levels. Prison officials have observed that family visits often lead to better inmate behavior.

The family-friendly visitation centers that would be established by this bill would encourage more frequent and healthy contact between incarcerated individuals and their families. Research has found that not having contact with their incarcerated parents results in children having feelings of alienation from their parents.

For children, the quality of the contact with their incarcerated parents appears to be influential in determining their outcomes. For example, in studies that associated correctional facility visits with negative outcomes for children, the visits occurred in environments that were described as being not child-friendly – for example, through thick Plexiglass, in crowded noisy rooms, and after being frisked.

On the other hand, most studies that report benefits for children from visiting their incarcerated parents occurred in facilities that focused on raising the quality of the visits and making the settings less stressful to children.

If done right, this pilot program bill will help break the cycle of incarceration, with benefits for the incarcerated individuals, their children and families, and society at large.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawaii Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.941.2231

Kokokahi YWCA
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
808.247.2124

Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety
Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:55AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 2160

Thank you, Chair Takayama, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kobayahi and committee members, for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of House Bill 2160**, relating to incarcerated parents.

YWCA O'ahu operates the only community-based work furlough program for women in the state. Over 75% of the women we serve are mothers, with roughly half becoming mothers before the age of 18. Being reunified with their children is often their primary goal and motivation. However, the reunification process typically begins towards the end of a person's sentence. If they had the opportunity for ongoing, regular structured and supported visits with children and caregivers from the beginning of their incarceration, parents would be better able to have a strong, healthy relationship with their children and reduce the negative impact of parental incarceration. Additionally, national data shows that incarcerated parents have lower recidivism rates if they had regular contact with their children and families.

Parental incarceration is associated with a variety of outcomes for children:

- More likely to become incarcerated
- More likely to become homeless
- More likely to live in poverty

These children represent the most vulnerable in our community.

The proposed legislation makes several recommendations about how the program should be structured. One recommendation to note is that the program should be operated by a non-profit organization. It is essential that there be separation between the staff of the visitation centers and those of the correctional facility. The type of relationship building needed to address the issues associated with parental incarceration would best be served by an outside entity.

House bill 2160 provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to begin breaking the intergenerational cycle of incarceration. This bill builds off the work by the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force (2005). Our state has studied the issue long enough, it is time to act. I respectfully urge you to pass House bill 2160 and protect the most-vulnerable children in our state.

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
YWCA O'ahu

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 1:40:05 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:



COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY and HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE

Representatives Greg Takayama & John M. Mizuno, Chairs
Representative Cedric Asuege Gates & Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chairs

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2018
TIME: 8:55 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

STRONG SUPPORT HB 2160 Relating to Incarcerated Parents.

We support this bill's goal to provide quality visitation opportunities for children of incarcerated parents.

The state department of public safety needs this law to require it to support child and parent relationships for the incarcerated people that it has custody of, which suffer extremely high recidivism rates release from state correctional facilities (Wong, 2017, Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions, <https://icis.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Hawaii-Recidivism-Report-2016.pdf>). The state's focus has been more on punishment instead of rehabilitation for over 30 years (previously Hawai'i had the lowest recidivism rate in the country (Bishop, 1973, Hawai'i Prison reform brings low recidivism, *The Milwaukee Sentinel*). Supporting parent and child relationships promotes rehabilitation (Hairston, 2003, Prisoners and Their Families: Parenting Issues During Incarceration, *Prisoners Once Removed: The Impact of Incarceration and Reentry on Children, Families and Communities*, Travis & Waul, Eds., Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute Press, 260-282).

In addition to the benefits of parental rehabilitation, the state must increase visitation opportunities to help children address the negative effects of losing a parent to imprisonment (Christian, 2009, Children of Incarcerated Parents, National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/documents/cyf/childrenofincarceratedparents.pdf>).

Since 2005 we have provided and researched a reentry planning circle process for incarcerated individuals who meet with loved ones. The Circle process is for incarcerated individuals who are accountable and want to make amends for past behavior, and to make a plan for a law abiding life. Many children have participated in the Circles, which research shows assists them to address the trauma of losing a parent to prison, heal, and move forward positively with their lives (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2666828, Walker, Tarutani & McKibben, 2015. Benefits of Restorative Reentry Circles for Children of Incarcerated Parents in Hawai'i. In *Promoting the Participation of Children across the Globe: From Social Exclusion To Child-Inclusive Policies*, Gal & Faedi-Duramy, (Eds.), Oxford University Press).

We incorporated as a non-profit in 1980. Our work provides evidence-based knowledge about increasing civic behavior, increasing criminal desistance, and assisting those harmed by crime and social injustice. Our work is published in over 40 papers and books. National and international governments frequently contact us for assistance. Mahalo for your public service. Please contact me at lorenn@hawaiifriends.org or (808) 218-3712 with any questions about our support for this bill or any assistance. Aloha, Loren Walker, JD, MPH, Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice.

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Lisa Jensen, Treasurer, • Daphne Ho'okano • Kellen Kashiwa, OD, • Ian Crabbe

P.O. Box 3654 • Honolulu • Hawai'i • 96811

www.hawaiifriends.org

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

Blueprint for Change
Family Reunification Working Group
Holomua Pu‘uhonua
HCR85 - Native Hawaiian Sub-committee

STRONG Support for H.B. No. 2160, Relating Incarcerated Parents

Blueprint for Change is a non-profit organization with a strong track record for innovating and implementing effective support services that address the unique challenges facing Hawai‘i’s ‘ohana. The organization’s roots date back to 1994 when in response to a growingly overburdened Child Welfare System, the Hawai‘i State Legislature created the Child Welfare Services Reform Task Force for the purpose of developing a “Blueprint for reform in child protective services.”

After several years of rigorous evaluation, the Committee finalized the core elements of the Neighborhood Place model, and in 2000, Blueprint for Change (BFC) was formed and incorporated as a nonprofit organization to serve as the Department of Human Services, master contractor for Neighborhood Place services and to continue the Committee’s effort to improve the responsiveness of the State of Hawai‘i – Child Welfare System.

By maintaining fluid relationships between state agencies, local service providers and community advocates, Blueprint for Change and the Neighborhood Place Partnership is able to significantly improve the responsiveness of the state’s Child Welfare System while reducing instances of child abuse and neglect.

As part of the oversight of the (7) NP across the state, BFC collects Quarterly Activity Reports (QAR), which is designed to inform services, procedures, and practices moving forward. In 2013 the QAR were showing a significant increase in services delivered to families impacted by incarceration. This led BFC to exploring this issue further. Thus, the creation of the Family Reunification Working Group (FRWG). The FRWG gained support and interest through the Legislative Keiki Caucus, and began meeting regularly to explore and advocate for solutions to problems encountered by children and families in the State who are affected by incarceration.

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT OF H.B. No. 2160:

- Family friendly visitation centers will encourage families to stay in frequent contact with their significant others who are incarcerated;
- National data shows that incarcerated individuals who maintain regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivate when they reenter society;
- Having the visitation centers staffed by social service professionals will provide families with opportunities to receive information and referral and resource linkage services, guidance and counseling, wrap around services to address issues relating to poverty, etc;
- Visitation centers could also be staffed with kupuna and Hawaiian cultural practitioners who could provide Native Hawaiian families with more relevant cultural counseling and problem-solving practices;
- The bill provides an opportunity to begin breaking the cycle of incarceration that is generational in some families;
- The bill provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to begin the conversation about how we break the cycle of incarceration and not only help families sustain themselves but also save the State millions of dollars in the future by reducing our prison population and welfare costs; and
- The State of California has successfully operated visitation centers like those being proposed by the bill for over thirty years. These centers are operated by a non-profit, social service organization called, Friends Outside.

TESTIMONY ON HB 2160 RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

February 13, 2018

8:55 am

Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Mizuno, Vice-Chairs, Gates and Kobayahsi, and members of the House Committees on Public Safety and Health & Human Services, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support HB 2160 Relating to Incarcerated Parents.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for seven Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. Historically, our work has focused on traditional risk factors for child abuse, including homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disabilities. However, in 2014, after much research and analysis, BFC determined that one of the most severe risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that there is at least one parent who is incarcerated.

An estimated 2.7 million children nationwide have at least one parent that is incarcerated, and studies conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative show that in terms of negative impacts on children, incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the divorce of parents. Even more disheartening is the evidence that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing the “cycle of incarceration” that sadly becomes generational in some families.

Because of these alarming statistics, BFC, in January 2014, helped organize and convene a working group to explore the issues surrounding children and families impacted by parental incarceration and to come up with solutions. Called the Family Reunification Working Group (FRWG), the group is comprised of representatives from several child and family serving organizations and service providers. Besides ourselves, it includes, Hawaii Prisoners Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, ALU LIKE, Inc., Lili`uokalani Trust, Keiki O Ka Aina, Family Programs Hawaii, Adult Friends for Youth, Community Alliance on Prisons, the Ka Hale Ho`ola No Na Wahine Program at the Fernhurst YWCA, Hawaii Technology Institute, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery, Makana O Ke Akua Clean and Sober Living, Holomua Pu`uhonua, and the University of Hawai`i Center on the Family. It also includes parents of children who have been affected by incarceration, adults who were former children of incarcerated parents, ex-offenders, and Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. The group established two immediate priorities to work on, one of which was to develop a database of children in Hawaii impacted by incarceration. During the 2015 State Legislature, the group was successful in getting a measure passed and signed into law (Act 16, SLH 2015) that requires the Hawaii Department of Public Safety’s Corrections Division to collect data at the point of intake on the number of minor children under the age of 18 that offenders entering the Hawaii corrections system have.

We now have three years of data collected from Public Safety, and although there remains some reliability issues relating to the collection, a problem we are working with Public Safety on to fix, we feel safe in saying two things: (1) of the inmates being processed through intake during

this period of time, at least 30% identified themselves as parents; and (2) approximately 4,000 children under the age of 18 are annually affected by parental incarceration. Again, this is based only on the intake data and does not include the number of minor children of parents who have been in the correctional system for several years.

The other main issue the FRWG identified in its discussions was the lack of resources to assist the affected children and families from becoming victimized themselves. Parental incarceration has been identified nationally as one of the top five Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) for children in the country. Studies have concluded that it contributes to low educational attainment, deviant behavior, and delinquency that eventually leads to incarceration itself.

The families left behind often struggle to sustain themselves financially and socially after the incarceration of one or more parents. Many are left without adequate health care and other supports and are plunged into a deadly spiral of despair and hopelessness.

The passage of HB 2160 is important for several reasons, most importantly, however, are the following: (1) visitation centers will provide a friendly environment that will encourage families to visit their significant others more often, and national criminal justice data shows that incarcerated individuals who have maintained positive relationships, particularly with their children and families, throughout their incarceration are less likely to recidivate when they re-enter society; (2) having visitation centers staffed by social service professionals will provide families with opportunities to receive information and referral and resource linkage services, guidance and counseling, and wrap around services to address issues relating to poverty; (3) visitation centers could also be staffed with kupuna and Hawaiian cultural practitioners who could provide Native Hawaiian families with more relevant cultural counseling and problem-solving practices; (4) the bill provides an opportunity to begin breaking the cycle of incarceration that is generational in some families by bringing all stakeholders together to begin the conversation about a system-wide approach to problem-solving; and (5) the State can begin saving millions of dollars in the future by reducing our prison population and welfare costs.

Finally, if Hawaii is looking at a model for these visitation centers, it can explore the statutes and system in the State of California. California has successfully operated visitation centers like those being proposed by the bill for over thirty years. These centers are operated by a non-profit, social service organization called, Friends Outside. In addition, the State of Maryland has a program called, "Reentry Mediation," that could offer some solutions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share this testimony with the Committees.

February 13, 2018

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

LATE

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 2160 – Relating to Incarcerated Parents**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 13, 2018, 8:55 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 2160 – Relating to Incarcerated Parents. It is conservatively estimated that five percent (5%) of Hawaii's children have had a parent in jail or prison.¹ As Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in our state's prison and jail population, this issue disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian children. Nationally, more than 20 percent of children with parents in state prison are under the age of five.² Additionally, having an incarcerated parent is considered an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) by the Centers for Disease Control. ACEs have been linked to poor health outcomes, risky health behaviors, and even early death.

Isolating children from their incarcerated parent is not the answer. Most parents in prison or jail will be eventually be released, which means that their children will be reunited with their parent. In-person visitation during the parent's period of incarceration is critical for the continuation of the child-parent relationship. Providing continuous and generous visitation between children and their incarcerated parent benefits both parent and child as well as society; research shows that preserving this relationship during a period of incarceration reduces children's mental health issues and anxiety, facilitates a smoother reentry for the parent upon release, and reduces recidivism rates.³

This Legislature has a history of prioritizing the well-being of children with incarcerated parents. In 2007, Hawaii passed a law requiring the Director of the Department of Public Safety to establish policies to

¹ Child Trends' analysis of the 2011–12 National Survey of Children's Health for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This number only reflects children whose incarcerated parent lived with them at some point.

² See Glaze, L. E., & Maruschak, L. M., *Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children* (August 2008); Hairston, C.F., *Focus on Children with Incarcerated Parents* (October 2007).

³ See La Vigne, N. G., Davies, E., & Brazzell, D., *Broken Bonds: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents* (February 2008); Shanahan, R., & Agudelo, S. V., *The Family and Recidivism*, AMERICANJails (September/October 2012).

place incarcerated parents in facilities that would promote the best interest of the family, rather than relying purely on administrative or economic factors. This law also requires PSD to consider the availability of parent-child contact when making placements.

HB 2160 reaffirms the State's commitment to public safety and the well-being of children with parents in jail or prison. This bill would provide an opportunity to begin breaking the cycle of multigenerational incarceration and promote positive outcomes for our keiki.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.

LATE

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 10:05:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Hawai'i Justice Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawai'i Justice Coalition comprised of individuals and organizations are working to reduce the number of people incarcerated in Hawai'i's jails and prisons. We seek to shift the state's spending priorities away from mass criminalization and incarceration towards rehabilitation, education, restorative justice, health and human services.

We support HB 2160 that would establish visitation centers based on the understanding that incarceration does not simply "punish" the individual convicted of a crime, but also their families and children. A plethora of studies confirm that family visitation and contacts are important factors in reducing recidivism.

Recidivism rates in Hawai'i are approximately 50%. Strengthening family visitation is a critical step to reduce recidivism rates, and allow meaningful opportunities for family visitation in a safe, supportive and healthy environment.

Please pass HB 2160.

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 3:00:37 PM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Lujan		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha and Hafa adai Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the House Committees on Health and Human Services and Public Safety. My name is Raymond Lujan. I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a practicum student at Blueprint for Change. I am here today in STRONG support of HB2160- Relating to Children of Incarcerated Parents.

I testify before you today from the perspectives of a native Chamorro from the island of Guam, which shares similar disproportionalities amongst native Chamorros in our prison system with Native Hawaiians here in the state; as a Master of Social Work student conscious of the ethics and values which guides our profession; and, most importantly, as a former child of an incarcerated parent.

The purpose and intent of this bill is to bridge gaps for children of incarcerated parents. Gaps which are likely to lend themselves to those very children becoming swept up in the alarming cycle of incarceration that exists in Hawai'i and nationwide. I support this bill which encourages a fuller relationship between the departments of Human Services and Public Safety, the Family Reunification Working Group, and other community stakeholders to act preventatively on behalf of those extremely vulnerable children. I don't think this measure, in anyway, undermines the work Public Safety has done thus far. It, instead, hopes to address present childhood trauma and limit further trauma which Kaiser Permanente, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration classifies as an "adverse childhood experience" (ACE).

I empathize with these children for many reasons. From studying prison policy literature, observations made in the field of social services, and my personal experience as a child of an incarcerated parent.

I was 13 when my father was incarcerated. I had a difficult time coping with his arrest in an already difficult teenage phase in our social life cycle. Once my siblings and I were finally able to attend supervised visits, we had collected more trauma from the prison staff and environment than what we went into it with initially. Regardless of their intentions, I internalized that poor treatment. I

justified their lack of empathy and compassion towards my family as being deserving. I believed that it was okay for them to do so, because that's all that I observed them doing to other families like mine. We had grown accustomed to it. The environment was in no way an appropriate setting to communicate and begin to work on healing individually, let alone as a family unit.

I realized as just a child then, that being a child of an incarcerated parent didn't warrant appropriate services that other children would've received in different settings and under different circumstances. That environment and power dynamic allowed for staff to treat me as if I had committed a crime. As if I was somehow guilty by association and undeserving of empathy and compassion. Luckily for me, my family and Chamoru values allowed for my siblings and I to escape that toxic cycle successfully. But the reality is, we were the exceptions. I am an exception.

I was an adult when I realized that the prison culture; albeit the norm, doesn't have to stay the norm. And prison policies, or lack thereof, that exist to maintain and perpetuate such cultures and attitudes can be changed. That we are all capable of change with the right support. Statistics tell us that parental incarceration is a strong risk factor and determinant for many adverse outcomes for children, including antisocial and violent behavior, mental health problems, failure to graduate from school, unemployment, and incarceration. We owe those kids, who are negatively impacted by decisions they did not make for themselves, but their adult parents, a chance to not fall victim and find themselves amongst those alarming statistics. We must meet these children with love and compassion. It is my belief that this bill has the potential to do just that. This bill, attempting to effectuate positive systemic change, can also serve as a symbol for change and empowerment for these all too marginalized children and families.

For those reasons, I support HB2160- Relating to Children of Incarcerated Parents, because I acknowledge the adverse experiences faced by children of incarcerated parents. I encourage continued efforts and engagement between the Departments of Human Services and Public Safety, the Family Reunification Working Group, and other community stakeholders. I believe in the state to establish a pilot Visitation Center with trauma-informed staffed to serve as liaison for the incarcerated and their underage children. And lastly, I support efforts to develop and implement more efficient policies regarding the incarcerated and their underage children. I believe this is a critical step in ending the cycle of incarceration in Native Hawaiian families and non-native Hawaiian families alike. And, I have the utmost faith and confidence that the state of Hawai'i has the knowledge and ability to do so; to set the example for the nation with policies regarding incarceration.

Mahalo and Si Yu'os Ma'ase' for allowing me to share this testimony with the Committee.

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 2:08:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi		Support	No

Comments:

Our hope lies in the adults of the future. Hopefully, this bill will help turn some young lives around so they will not follow the same path of their incarcerated loved ones.

e. ileina funakoshi

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 7:32:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It'll reduce recidivism and improve family relations and strength in the community

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 5:56:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, which would establish a pilot program for visitation of children with incarcerated parents. Keeping families strong is an important way of preventing recidivism, as well as raising healthier children. Ideally, each prison and jail in the state would have such facilities permanently.

Barbara Polk

Testimony for the
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE &
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
HEARING: February 13, 2018
Conf. Room 329
8:55 AM

HB 2160

(Pilot visitation program and center for families of inmates)

Testifier: Karen K. Cobeen

From District: House District 7, Hawaii Island

Position: STRONGLY SUPPORT.

To: Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Aloha:

I wish to testify in support of HB2160. I was shocked to learn that there are no projects or programs like this for Hawaii's inmates or their children. A strong family is essential for a successful re-entry to a community. And a child's entire future could depend upon regular and nurturing contact with their parents no matter the circumstances.

Please support these projects and fund them adequately for success.

I did not see anything in this bill about regular monitoring or reporting on progress of this pilot project. I may have overlooked that. For accountability purposes, I strongly recommend a process to report back to the legislature and the public the progress and recommendations for continuing this project after this initial pilot period.

Respectfully,
Karen K. Cobeen
P.O. Box 7028
Kamuela, HI 96743
808-938-0089

Nikos A. Leverenz
House Committee on Public Safety
House Committee on Health and Human Services
13 February 2018 -- 8:55 A.M.
HB 2160 -- SUPPORT

Rep. Takayama & Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

Rep. Mizuno & Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

HB 2160 would require the establishment of a pilot visitation center or centers for children of incarcerated parents in correctional facilities in the State and a plan for visitation centers at all state operated correctional facilities.

With the state contemplating a new correctional facility at a cost of over \$500 million, it is imperative that current and future correctional resources are dedicated to help maintain familial connections, including physical proximity, that will help ameliorate the harm to children and families and also increase the likelihood of successful post-release reentry and reintegration.

Any period of incarceration has a dramatic impact on children and families. For children, the incarceration of a parent is an “adverse childhood experience” (ACE) that can have lasting consequences. Incarceration is “distinguished from other adverse childhood experiences by the unique combination of trauma, shame, and stigma.” (National Resource Center on Children & Families of the Incarcerated (2014). [Children and Families of the Incarcerated Fact Sheet.](#))

Researchers have noted that incarceration of individuals for nonviolent offenses or technical violations of parole have more direct negative impacts on the well-being of children, and that these impacts reach into adulthood:

The incarceration of a household member affects children's welfare in many ways. [There] is strong evidence that the net effect of incarceration on children is harmful. [citation] This is especially evident in light of the extensive incarceration of people for nonviolent offenses or technical violations such as missing a parole meeting. [citation] In such cases, parental incarceration has been linked to increased aggression, depression, and anxiety in their children. [citations] Children's well-being can be affected through multiple pathways, including reduced economic

resources, traumatic removal of the family member, and stigmatization....
[citations]

Incarceration's strains on households appear to have enduring associations with health into adulthood [and] children exposed to incarceration during its peak will continue to reach adulthood with the accompanying health consequences for many years to come. (Gjelsvik, Dumont, Nunn, and Rosen (June 2016). [Adverse childhood events: incarceration of household members and health-related quality of life in adulthood](#). *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. 2014 August ; 25(3): 1169–1182.)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation underscores the importance of maintaining familial connections during incarceration:

State and federal criminal justice systems should preserve family connections during incarceration by encouraging judges and other key players to consider the impact on kids and families when making sentencing and prison-assignment decisions. These systems should require courts to inform local social service agencies and community-based organizations when a parent is incarcerated so that they can make contact with families. Prisons and jails also should develop visitation policies that allow children to maintain their parental relationships, such as providing transportation and family-friendly visiting centers in their facilities or offering other means of communication... (Annie E. Casey Foundation (April 2016). [A Shared Sentence: The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities](#), at 9.)

The foundation also noted the compelling need for government policymakers to reexamine current correctional practices:

Taking this step means reexamining our nation's decades-old policies on sentencing, bail, probation and parole, exploring shorter sentences and alternatives to jail and prison for nonviolent crimes, which represent the majority of offenses among people serving time. [citation] It also means curbing the use of jails to hold people awaiting trial who can't afford bail and, consequently, end up losing jobs, child care or homes — even if they are absolved of wrongdoing. These fundamental changes to America's

criminal justice system would dramatically decrease the number of people — and, therefore, parents — behind bars, the amount of time they stay there and the effects of their absence on their children, families and neighborhoods. Though some states have already moved in this direction, it is time that we as a nation revisit our notion of criminal justice and eliminate flawed policies and practices that unnecessarily and unfairly emphasize stringent approaches to meting out punishment. (*Id.*, at 8.)

While the reform contemplated by SB 2305 is a salutary one, it also provides an occasion to reassess and reevaluate this state's current sentencing policies, including the unusual role played by the Hawaii Paroling Authority, as well as its parole and probation practices.

Maintaining a disproportionately high number of individuals under correctional supervision comes at great expense to the public — with even greater costs borne by impacted families over decades.

Sincerely,
Nikos A. Leverenz

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:43:15 AM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB2160 to PBS/HHS. This is a smart and much needed bill! This will encourage family contact with their incarcerated family member. This is important as studies show that family support is crucial to the successful reentry after incarceration.

It is also important for the well-being of the children of those people who are incarcerated to be comfortable when visiting their parents or other family members.

STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS BILL!!!

Thank you-

Raelyn Reyno Yeomans

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB2160, Relating to Incarcerated Parents

From: anasroj422@gmail.com <Jordana Ferreira>

Message:

Families are a critical part of a child's life, no matter how that family functions or what a particular family structure may look like. It's important that children maintain connections to their parents and for the community to support incarcerated parents.

Aloha,

I am writing to support HB2160, establishing family-friendly visitation centers. These centers will help to encourage families to maintain contact and connection while an individual is incarcerated. This will benefit children, who will be less likely to be isolated from family members, as well as the incarcerated parent, whose continued connection to their family and community may aid them in a smoother reentry upon release. This bill will work to break the cycle of incarceration while allowing families to support one another through difficult times.

For these reasons, I urge the Committees to support this measure.

Jordana Ferreira

LATE

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:50:08 PM
Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB2160, Relating to Incarcerated Parents

From: jessica.wong@gmx.com <Jessica Wong Sumida>

Message:

Aloha,

I am writing to support HB2160, establishing family-friendly visitation centers. These centers will help to encourage families to maintain contact and connection while an individual is incarcerated. This will benefit children, who will be less likely to be isolated from family members, as well as the incarcerated parent, whose continued connection to their family and community may aid them in a smoother reentry upon release. This bill will work to break the cycle of incarceration while allowing families to support one another through difficult times.

For these reasons, I urge the Committees to support this measure.

Jessica Wong Sumida

LATE

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:16:24 PM

Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Garlock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Creating spaces for children and parents to keep familial connections will be better for everyone in the long run. I strongly support this measure.

Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 2:50:48 AM
Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: