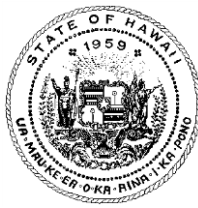


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Cathy Ross**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17  
AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 14  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN  
CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK  
WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER  
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH  
VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL  
FACILITIES AND JAILS.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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

Thursday, March 8, 2018; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 429

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 17 and House Resolution (HR) 14, which encourages the Department of Human Services (DHS) to work with the Family Reunification working Group and other stakeholders, in consultation with PSD, in developing a plan to establish visitation centers at State correctional facilities.

As presented in testimony before Senate Standing Committees on Senate Bill (SB) 2305, Senate Draft (SD) 1, the Department has already been working with all of the named entities towards such a program and intends to continue doing so with or without the passage of HCR 17/HR 14.

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., offer

incarcerated parent(s) opportunities to learn parenting skills and other child-bonding activities. Parents also receive support services and family therapy as they transition through to the community, all of which serve to better prepare them to participate in a visitation program and maximize the benefits to the children and parents, alike.

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 and sustained visitations. A carefully planned program would include help for parents to increase parental skills through proper parenting and cognitive programming, and the provision of appropriate support services (inclusive of therapy) for the child(ren), and additional resources to support 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, including wrap-around support services for the child(ren), incarcerated parent(s), and caretaker(s).

Ideally, PSD would invite conversation for such visitation centers to be connected with minimum security correctional facilities as proposed in SB 2305, SD 1 and also suggests that consideration be given to placing the Visitation Centers in the community, where children and caretakers have easy access to incarcerated parents, possibly in close proximity to Work Furlough program sites. A pilot program may be considered as an intermediate step in a comprehensive plan.

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**

March 7, 2018

HCR. No. 17 & HR 14:           REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS

Chair Gregg Takayama and Members of the Committee:

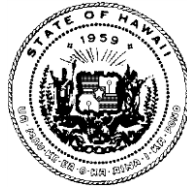
The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports HCR No. 17 and HR No. 14. We support any effort to maintain and foster the bonds between incarcerated parents and their children. Opportunities for incarcerated parents to have meaningful in-person contact visits with their children are increasingly 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, touch or sit with their child. They must speak through glass or clear plastic partitions that restrict healthy and positive communication between an incarcerated parent and their child. This is particularly devastating for incarcerated parents with young children. Our office supports these resolutions as we believe maintaining the parent-child bond and family bonds are in the public interest, in the best interest of the child(ren), in the best interest of incarcerated parents, and in the best interest of families.

We also wish to submit and request that the Department of Health be included as a stakeholder as we also see the need for visitation centers at the Hawaii State Hospital where many parents with mental health issues are detained or housed.

For these reasons, we strongly support HCR No. 17 and HR No. 14.

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

**LATE**

March 7, 2018

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR17/HR14 - RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS**

Hearing: Thursday, March 8, 2018, 9:30 am  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the resolutions to support appropriate child-parent relationships of children of incarcerated parents and provides comments. DHS defers to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as the resolution involves DPS facilities and oversight, and population of children of incarcerated parents that most likely will be greater than the small number involved with Child Welfare Services.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of these resolutions is to request that DHS, in consultation with DPS, work with the Family Reunification Working Group and other community stakeholders to develop a plan to establish visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails.

DHS is open to further discussions and collaboration with DPS, the Family Reunification Working Group, and other stakeholders to develop a plan for visitation centers at the state's correctional facilities. However, while DHS is an important stakeholder in the conversation, it does not have the authority over DPS, its facilities, its operations, or the population of incarcerated parents. DHS respectfully requests that the Legislature, through the Keiki Caucus, remain the lead entity to further develop a statewide visitation program for children of incarcerated parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HCR 17 AND HR 14 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

March 8, 2018  
9:30 am  
Conference Rm. 429

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Asuega Gates, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support HCR 17 and HR 14.**

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 HCR 17 and HR 14 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 for models 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 be used as a model in doing planning. In this program, social workers are tasked with meeting the incarcerated individual and the individuals family members separately prior to the start of visitation. These "mediated" meetings help inform both parties of the do's and don'ts of visitation and the consequences that could occur should they not comply with the requirements, particularly those that relate to safety and security issues, e.g. bringing in contraband and weapons. Once the social workers can receive assurances of compliance, the visitations can be authorized to begin.

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

# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

**LATE**

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

March 7, 2018

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 17/HR 14 REQUESTING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION  
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK WITH  
THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER  
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO  
ESTABLISH VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE  
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS**

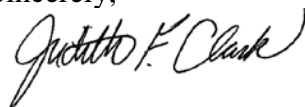
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 17/HR 14.

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

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 8, 2018

9:30 am

Room 329

**LATE**

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR 17/HR 14 - FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and Members of the Committee!

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 families of **ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE** as well as 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.

HCR 17/HR 14 requests the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, to work with the family reunification working group and other community stakeholders to develop a plan to establish visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails.

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.

This is why it is so distressing that our department of public safety has decided to eliminate contact visits, except for attorneys and their clients, as buried in the appendices of the DEIS for the replacement of OCCC. Keeping people connected with loved ones is a crucial element of reentry. Why would we place barriers to reentry and reunification with loved ones if it is in the family's best interest?

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. The center is open every day and children come in and do their homework with their Dads.

I was just over at the Women's Prison and discovered that Keiki Hale, a visiting room for Moms and their young children, is no longer there. I was told that the "new" visiting room was dirty and had broken tiles on the floor (not good for toddlers who crawl). Keiki Hale was started with donations from the community, painted by talented artists imprisoned at WCCC at the time, and furnished with books, toys, rocking chairs when Governor Cayetano asked his cabinet members for donations. Eliminating Keiki Hale is another example of the department's disregard for the people in their care and custody as well as their dismissal of the community.

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, building better familial relationships, and helping those who are incarcerated understand the impacts of their actions on their loved ones. These are human challenges that we CAN address and ameliorate.

Community Alliance on Prisons looks forward to working with the Department of Human Services and the Family Reunification Group to develop family visitation centers to maintain and enhance positive connections with loved ones, while accomplishing the state's goal of successful reintegration for people exiting incarceration. People need a place to "land" after imprisonment and maintaining connections facilitates this process.

We urge the committee to pass this important resolution. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 3/8/2018 1:05:47 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, March 8, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of **HCR17**

To the Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair; the Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HCR17**, to REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HCR17** and support its passage.

**HCR17**, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests that during the 2018 legislative interim, the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, work with the Keiki Caucus's Family Reunification Working Group and other community stakeholders to develop a plan to establish children and family friendly visitation centers at all local correctional prisons and jails to ensure the wellbeing of children of incarcerated parents and their families.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides, "We support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the offenders as

contributing members of society. Likewise we support opportunities for those who have been incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community. " (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 273-275 (2016)).

"We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so. We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive." (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 184-187(2016)).

Given that **HCR17** requests that during the 2018 legislative interim, the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, work with the Keiki Caucus's Family Reunification Working Group and other community stakeholders to develop a plan to establish children and family friendly visitation centers at all local correctional prisons and jails to ensure the wellbeing of children of incarcerated parents and their families, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 3/6/2018 4:38:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shanelle Acain	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony of Shanelle Acain

Chair: Gregg Takayama & Vice Chair: Cedric Asuega Gates

House Committee on Public Safety

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17

To develop visitation centers at all State Correctional Facilities and Jails

Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 9:30am

Conference Room 429

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

My name is Shanelle Acain and I am in support of HCR No.17.

I support HCR No.17 because even though parents make choices that lead them to incarceration their children should not be subjected to the conditions and procedures of Correctional Facilities and Jails. Far too often are our children being helplessly put into situations that are harmful to them emotionally, mentally, and stigmatically. Our society has been moving away from this culture and has been focusing more on human rights and responsibilities. Yes, it would be a lesson of "you don't want to end up here". But families are what our communities are made of. Strengthening families, promoting family connection and togetherness, implementing solutions that empower

individuals and families to succeed are all things today's society needs and is currently striving for. Many of our important programs are in favor of this passing and so am I.

Again, my name is Shanelle and I am in strong support of HCR17.

Shanelle Acain/sacain@hawaii.edu

DATE: March 6, 2018

TO: State of Hawaii, House of Representatives, Department of Public Safety and

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Lynn DeCoite

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Calvin K.Y. OSay

FROM: Jamie Marie Logan

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

RE: **HCR 17/ HR 14** – Requesting the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, to work with the family reunification working group and other community stakeholders to develop a plan to establish visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails.

HEARING: Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 9:30am in Conference room 429

Aloha:

I am here today in support of HCR 17/ HR 14. I am here to ask that you follow through with making plans for visiting centers at our prison's and jail's across the State of Hawaii.

I stand before you today, a junior in the social work program at University of Hawaii Manoa. I have not always been on the best journey in life. I battled with a substance abuse issue for over 20 years, and have only within the last 6 years, been able to put the pieces of my life back together, and find a new way to live.

While in the deepest part of my addiction, I spent a total of five (5) years incarcerated, with two (2) years served at the Federal Detention Center (FDC), and the remaining three (3) served at Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). I have experienced first-hand, the reality of visitation room procedures in both facilities, and have felt the degraded myself, as well

as my family members who came to visit me. The process for a visitor to gain access to a jail or prison is lengthy, and derogatory, in a sense that the visitors are often treated exactly as the inmates are. This includes lengthy waiting periods, mandatory pat downs with random strip searches of people all ages and genders. The experience is traumatizing, especially for those who have never experienced these things before, and can lead to them never returning.

I am here because I support and believe in children and family friendly visiting centers because they will benefit both the family and the person being visited. Family is a major factor in rehabilitation, and providing a safe place for children and friends will benefit many.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. If you would like to discuss this or have any questions, I can be reached at (808) 224-4462 or via email at [Jmlogan@hawaii.edu](mailto:Jmlogan@hawaii.edu).

**LATE**

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 3/7/2018 5:07:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety.

I stongly support HCR17/HC14 that would move toward establishng family visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails. If we wish to preserve families, reduce recidivism, and reduce multigenerational criminal conduct, it is very important that the state take steps to allow families, and especially children, to visit incarcerated parents.

Thank you for allowing me to testify IN SUPPORT of HCR17/HC14.

Barbara Polk



**LATE**

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 3/7/2018 8:26:54 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
rocky	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Written Testimony

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (HCR) 17 AND HOUSE RESOLUTION (HR) 14 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS.

Thursday, March 8, 2018; 9:30 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 429

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee:

Good Morning my name is Roxzanne Kajioka and I am a student at the University of Hawaii in the BSW program. I am here to testify that I am in favor of HCR 17 and HR14 regarding the visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails.

Child and parent involvement has been shown that it is an important process in structuring a child's development. Although the prison system does have visitation hours it has a very strict procedure that stops the bonding of parent and child that is necessary for a children's development. If we can look carefully at the problem and realized that it is not the child's fault we can help reunite the parent who is incarcerated with their child/ren. Prison's should have a place where it is family friendly so that they can further bond with one another. This will have many positive opportunities for the parent by allowing them to feel, experience and do hands-on activities with their child/ren.

I also have a daughter whose father was incarcerated for most of her first four years. Although he was able to see his child, the facility was not appropriate for his daughter it was incapable of providing a comfortable visitation where both child and parent can bond. I believe if there was a facility more family friendly, it will be beneficial for a child's development and improve the behavior of the parent who is incarcerated.

Again thank you my name is Roxzanne Kajioaka and I am in favor of HCR 17 and HR14.

**LATE**

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 3/7/2018 9:52:06 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**Chair: Gregg Takayama & Vice Chair: Cedric Asuega Gates**

**House Committee on Public Safety House Concurrent Resolution No. 17**

**To develop visitation centers at all State Correctional Facilities and Jails  
Thursday,**

**March 8, 2018 at 9:30am**

**Conference Room 429 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street**

**My name Patricia De Luna and I am in support of HCR No.17. I support HCR No.17 because I am a strong believer of visitations with incarcerated parents and their children, however when it comes to seeing the parent in the prison setting it is often upsetting. I believe the children have suffered enough and it traumatizes the children emotionally and mentally to see their parents in the prison environment. It is necessary to bring the parent to the child. Not only is it safer for the children but it does take stress off of the inmate. The family can be together and focus on each other, not other distractions such as other inmates and correctional officers. Please consider the keiki and support family friendly visit centers in all correctional facilities.**

**Thank you,**

**Patricia De Luna**

**LATE**

**HCR-17**

Submitted on: 3/8/2018 8:36:16 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: