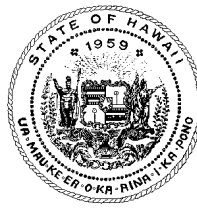


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

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

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

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 205  
AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 184  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN  
CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK  
WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION GROUP AND OTHER COMMUNITY  
STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH VISITATION  
CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS.

Presented by Nolan P. Espinda  
Director, Department of Public Safety  
to the

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Friday, March 22, 2019; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chairs San Buenaventura and Takayama, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Gates,  
and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of the above referenced resolutions, which aim to have established, at all State correctional facilities and jails, family-oriented visitation centers.

PSD appreciates the support of the Department of Human Services (DHS) in being open to further discussion and collaboration and in providing the comment that such planning and collaboration will require increased staffing and resources.

Testimony on HCR 205 / HR 184  
House Committee on Human Services and  
Homelessness  
House Committee on Public Safety,  
Veterans, and Military Affairs  
March 22, 2019  
Page 2

The Department also notes that because the parents are offenders, visitation centers must be safe and secure, while providing a caring and nurturing environment for all participants. Ideally, PSD would invite discussion for such visitation centers to be located at minimum security correctional facilities and include wrap-around support services for the children, incarcerated parents, and caretakers, or that consideration be given to placing the visitation centers in close proximity to Work Furlough program sites in the community to be more accessible to all participants.

Should the resolution(s) be adopted, PSD looks forward to collaborating with the DHS Child Welfare Services Division (DHS-CWS), the Keiki Caucus's Family Reunification Working Group, and other entities to develop a plan to establish family-friendly visitation centers to promote the well-being of children of incarcerated parents and to facilitate a sound and effective family reunification process that ensures that Court-ordered visits, special visits, and parenting support services are provided to incarcerated parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 20, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, & Military Affairs

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 205/HR 183 – RELATING TO INCARCERATED PARENTS**

Hearing: March 22, 2019, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of these resolutions to support appropriate child-parent relationships of children of incarcerated parents, and provides comments. DHS defers to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) with the authority over correctional facilities and programs, including any planning and resource needs necessary to implement.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of these resolutions are to require the development of a plan for visitation centers for children of incarcerated parents at all state operated correctional facilities.

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 correction facilities.

DPS has already established programs to promote parenting skills and other child-bonding activities such as Keiki O Ka Aina's Play and Learn, Read Aloud, Read-to-me, Keala Hou, Family Days, etc. Assessment, planning, collaboration and recommendation for the

development of this effort will require new staff resources and funding. New ongoing funding will also be required to implement and sustain a statewide DPS visitation program at all facilities, based on the recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 20, 2019

To: Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
House Committees on Human Services and Homlessness/Public Safety, Veterans and Military Affairs

From: Laura Nevitt, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HCR2015/HR184– 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 State Capitol, Room 329 , March 22, 2019, 9:30 AM

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**HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. We write in SUPPORT of HCR 205/HR 184**

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.

**For these reasons, HCAN asks the committee to pass HCR 205/HR 184.**

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

# 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)

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

Collins Consulting, LLC

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 Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

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

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 20, 2019

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Veterans and Military Affairs

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 205/SR 184 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 SCR 205/SR 184 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**HCR-205**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 8:19:23 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



# 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 HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Joy SanBuenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Friday, March 22, 2019

9:30 am

Room 329

### SUPPORT for HCR 205/HR 184 - DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR VISITATION CENTERS

Aloha Chairs SanBuenaventura & Takayama, Vice Chairs Nakamura & Gates, & Committee Members!

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 5,400 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 more than 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 205/HR 184 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this important measure. Some of the impacts of incarceration on families, especially children, include:

- Economic/material effects (financial hardship, employment, homelessness etc.)
- Changes in family relationships and quality (changes in family structure, lack of contact, the effects on parenting etc.)
- Health problems (mental health, physical health, infant mortality etc.)
- Behavioral changes among the children (antisocial and risk/criminal behavior etc.)
- Effects in relation to schooling and education (prisoners' children)
- Social exclusion, inequality and citizenship (broader social effects and questions of democracy, rights and legitimacy)

The data and research show that keeping families connected reduces recidivism. Let's stop the intergenerational incarceration in Hawai'i noted by the Department of Justice when they came here in 1998, **WE CAN DO THIS!** Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committees to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**HCR-205**

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 3:11:05 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR-205**

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 9:23:43 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION!**