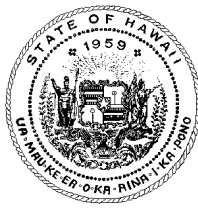


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 7, SENATE DRAFT 1
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 Judiciary
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

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

Friday, April 12, 2019; 9:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of the above
referenced resolution, which aims 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.

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 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

April 9, 2019

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

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 7 SD1 – 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: April 12 March 19, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 SCR7 is 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.

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

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

April 9, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR 7/SCR 7 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 SR 7/SCR 7 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. About 43% of parents in federal or state prisons had been living with their children at the time admission leaving 57% of youth already at risk with no parental or legal guardian's supervision. 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

SCR-7-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 10:18:27 AM

Testimony for HSH on 4/12/2019 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

The Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats write in support of SCR7 SD1.

The purpose and need of this measure is the maintain family unity when criminal individuals have been placed in correctional facilities. While we recognize the loss of freedom that necessarily accompanies criminal convictions, we as a society do not hold families responsible for individual crimes, anymore than we hold other individuals criminally responsible for the actions of another. The priority of this resolution is the well-being of the children and spouses of incarcerated family members.

We also note that our Platform also calls for "reforms to our criminal justice system that encourage the reintegration of formally incarcerated individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism." The family is the most foundational tenet of this reintegration, and incarcerated individuals should maintain their family connections for the sake of their mental health and their psychological journey while paying their debt to society. Family visitation is associated with reduced prison misconduct in the academic literature (Cochran 2012). Therefore, it is reasonable to consider this resolution's inteded impacts justifiable and beneficial to society.

We thank Senator Rhoads for introducing this measure, and ask that the Committee vote for its passage.

Respectfully,

Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair

Oahu County Committe of the Oahu County Democrats

Cited:

Cochran, Joshua C. The ties that bind or the ties that break: Examining the relationship between visitation and prisoner misconduct. Journal of Criminal Justice. Volume 40, Issue 5, September–October 2012, Pages 433-440.

Testimony on SCR 7, SD 1 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 operated correctional centers⁵ before the House Committees on Human Services and Homelessness and Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

April 12, 2019

9:35 am

Conference Rm. 329

Aloha Chairs Mizuno and Takayama, Vice Chairs Sanbuenaventura and Gates,, and members of the House Committees on Human Services and Homelessness and Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs,, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SCR 7, SD 1**, 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 operated correctional centers

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 four 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.

This resolution is important because we believe it will help the State improve its visitation programs at state correctional facilities. The prison environment can be frightening and traumatizing for children, Visits can include long waits, body frisks, rude treatment, and exposure to crowded visiting rooms with no activities for children. Such conditions do not encourage frequent visits between incarcerated parents and their children and yet, findings from studies suggest the maintenance of family ties and parent-child relationships is linked to post-release success, lower rates of recidivism, and fewer parole violations. They also studies suggest that the alarming rates of intergenerational incarceration may be attributed to the lack of communication and maintenance of child-incarcerated parent relationships.

Children and family friendly Visitation Centers can help reduce these adverse childhood experiences and keep families together. This resolution is important to not only help keep families together but for creating a more therapeutic healing system in correctional facilities. It looks at visitation centers through a social services lens, a place where children and significant other family members can remain unified with the offender and where professional social workers can identify and focus strengthening services on children at risk of being part of the cycle of incarceration. This is why it is important that the working group created by this resolution includes representation from the Department of Human Services and community-based social service providers, in addition to the Department of Public Safety.

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



Committees: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, April 12th, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of S.C.R. 7, S.D. 1

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Asuega Gates, and members of the Committees:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i writes in **support** of S.C.R. 7, S.D. 1 which would request 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.

Recognizing the benefits of parent-child visiting and improving their current environments to be more family-friendly and provide greater opportunities for visiting is a part of a better and improved vision for corrections. Imprisonment is not one-dimensional as thousands of families are victims of mass incarceration.

Research shows that visits and maintaining family ties are among the best ways to reduce recidivism¹. In this re-imagined era of corrections where we all want better outcomes, the most productive way to create positive change is to bring community groups and government entities together in collaboration.

The HCR 85 Task Force report on prison reform states, "While incarcerated, every inmate should be provided with the resources and opportunity to build and maintain family relationships, thereby strengthening the support system available to them upon release." We agree which is why ACLU of Hawai'i supports S.C.R. 7, S.D. 1.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Monica Espitia
Smart Justice Campaign Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for 50 years.

¹ Separation by Bars and Miles: Visitation in State Prison, Prison Policy Initiative, October 20, 2015.
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/prisonvisits.html>

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy SanBuenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

Friday, April 12, 2019

9:35 am

Room 329

LATE

STRONG SUPPORT for SCR 7 SD1 - DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR VISITATION CENTERS

Aloha Chairs SanBuenaventura & Takayama, Vice Chairs Nakamura & Gates & 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 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.

SCR 7 SD1 requests the department of human services, in consultation with the department of public safety, to work with the Family Reunification Working Group and other stakeholders to develop a plan to establish visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this resolution. We are part of the Family Reunification Working Group and stand ready to assist the Department of Human Services in developing a plan to keep incarcerated people connected to their families and loved ones. We cite research to show that this is a proven strategy to reduce recidivism.

THE RESEARCH:

The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism

https://mn.gov/doc/assets/11-11MNPrisonVisitationStudy_tcm1089-272781.pdf

Minnesota Department of Corrections (St. Paul, MN) 2011

Visitation has a significant effect on recidivism. “Any visit reduced the risk of recidivism by 13 percent for felony reconvictions and 25 percent for technical violation revocations, which reflects the fact that visitation generally had a greater impact on revocations. The findings further showed that more frequent and recent visits were associated with a decreased risk of recidivism” (p. 27).

Inmate Social Ties and the Transition to Society Does *Visitation Reduce Recidivism?*

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.865.9780&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

William D. Bales, Daniel P. Mears - Florida State University

...Consonant with the few extant empirical studies of the topic (e.g., Adams and Fischer 1976; Holt and Miller 1972; Ohlin 1951), any visitation and more frequent visitation were both associated with a lower likelihood of recidivism. Additional, more nuanced analyses conveyed similar findings, such as the notion that visitation over many different months exerts a greater effect than visits over fewer months. Visitation was also associated with delaying the onset, or timing, of recidivism.

Blessed Be the Social Tie That Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403411429724> - Grant Duwe1 and Valerie Clark, December 2011

...we found that visitation significantly decreased the risk of recidivism, a result that was robust across all of the Cox regression models that were estimated. The results also showed that visits from siblings, in-laws, fathers, and clergy were the most beneficial in reducing the risk of recidivism, whereas visits from ex-spouses significantly increased the risk. The findings suggest that revising prison visitation policies to make them more “visitor friendly” could yield public safety benefits by helping offenders establish a continuum of social support from prison to the community.

The data and research show that keeping families and loved ones connected does reduce recidivism. Let’s stop the intergenerational incarceration in Hawai`i noted by the Department of Justice when they came here in 1998. Of the eight jurisdictions they visited, they found that Hawai`i had more intergenerational incarceration than any other jurisdiction they visited.

WE CAN DO THIS! The community stands ready to help.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committees to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our research and to testify!

SCR-7-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 8:58:14 AM

Testimony for HSH on 4/12/2019 9:35:00 AM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-7-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:44:52 PM

Testimony for HSH on 4/12/2019 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SCR7. It would make sense that the more prison visitations, the more likely an inmate will integrate into society once s/he completes his/her sentence.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

TO: House Committee of Services and Homelessness and House Committee on Public Safety,
Veterans and Military Affairs
RE: SCR7

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

April 12, 2019 9:45 AM Room

Chair Takayama, and members of the committee:
Chair Buenaventura, and members of the committee:

My name is Teddy Shapiro. I am an advocate for families with incarcerated parents and am here today to support SCR 7 in relation to the construction of visitation centers in all correctional facilities and jails.

SCR 7 very much aligns with these values and principles we are built upon. Allowing for the creation of visitation centers at all state correctional facilities and jails. This will allow unbiased health professionals to facilitate interactions between family and incarcerated parent in a more productive fashion.

Parental incarceration is a strong risk factor for many adverse outcomes for children, including antisocial and violent behavior, mental health problems, failure to graduate from school, and unemployment. Parental incarceration is now recognized as an "adverse childhood experience"; it is important to note that it is distinguished from other adverse childhood experiences by the unique combination of trauma, shame, and stigma; and the prison environment can be frightening and traumatizing for children, both in the attitudes and behaviors of prison staff as well as the physical setting of approved visitation sites.

Visits can include long waits, body frisks, rude treatment, and exposure to crowded visiting rooms with no activities for children; and such conditions do not encourage frequent visits between incarcerated parents and their children, despite findings from studies suggesting the maintenance of family ties and parent-child relationships is linked to post-release success, lower rates of recidivism, and fewer parole violations; and studies suggest that the alarming rates of intergenerational incarceration may be attributed to the lack of communication and maintenance of child-incarcerated parent relationships.

Visitation Centers can help reduce these adverse childhood experiences and keep families together. This bill is important for not only help keep families together but for creating a more therapeutic healing system in correctional facilities.

The following are reasons for **STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR7:**

1. National data shows that incarcerated individuals who maintain regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivate when they reenter society
2. It will help keep families with incarcerated parents in communication and together
3. Will have health professionals running the facility creating a more therapeutic atmosphere
4. The bill provides an opportunity to begin breaking the cycle of incarceration that is generational in some families
5. 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.

I strongly urge the committee to pass SCR7. Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to testify.