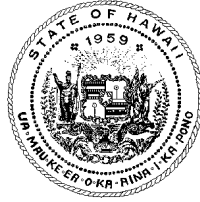


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1741, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

by
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 2:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

House Bill (HB) 1741, House Draft (HD) 1, seeks to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to work with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF), and requires the working group to determine the anticipated initial and annual costs to run a sustainable Pilot Visitation and Family Resource Center Program.

PSD supports the intent of HB 1741, HD1 and appreciates the Legislature's recognition that more information is needed to determine the initial and annual costs of this worthwhile initiative. PSD is willing to work with the proponents and DHS to assist in determining the initial and subsequent annual costs needed to begin and move this project forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1741, HD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1741 HD1 – RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED
INDIVIDUALS.**

Hearing: February 23, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, offer comments, and defers to the Department of Public Safety.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill requires the Department of human services to work with the Department of public safety and other entities to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu. Requires the Department of human services to continue to lead a working group to address visitation and support needs of children and families of incarcerated individuals. Requires the working group to submit a report to the Legislature before the 2023 regular session. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Requiring the working group to determine the anticipated initial and annual costs to run a sustainable Pilot Visitation and Family Resource Center Program at Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu and include that cost in its report to the Legislature;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Improving contacts and relationships between children and families with their incarcerated parents at the Waiawa facility will benefit multiple generations and are the first steps to improve the child's and family's overall well-being and the incarcerated individuals' return to society.

Here is a link to the HCR 205/SCR7 (2019) Report to the Legislature:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Visiting-Centers-at-all-State-Correctional-Facilities.pdf>. The workgroup participants worked collaboratively over the summer of 2019 to address this long-standing and important social issue.

The recommended appropriation amounts in the HCR 205 Report were the pre-pandemic estimates. Due to the pandemic, we continue to mitigate the way we deliver services, in addition to paying more for consumer and other goods. The cumulative price increase between 2019 and 2022 is approximately 10%. Reports are projecting cumulative price increases between 2019 and 2023 to reach 13.27% or higher. Therefore, DHS recommends appropriating general funds of \$115,000.00 to PSD and in the amount of \$305,000.00 to DHS.

As previously reported, PSD plans to improve existing facilities to be used for additional visitation activities. These funds will be used to purchase construction materials that will all be assembled and built by inmates. Waiawa will teach inmates involved in proper construction techniques and add value to the visitation center for the inmates. In addition, the Department plans to use the funds to purchase additional social work and family support services for families at the time of arrest, during incarceration, and for support services once the incarcerated individual reenters the community. Visitation and support services would include additional navigation and advocacy support for family members and legal custodians; funds will also be allocated for evaluation.

The Department is committed to a multigenerational approach to ending poverty in Hawaii. It is well known that growing up with an incarcerated parent is an adverse early childhood experience that has a long-lasting impact on children into adulthood. DHS will continue to work with family members, community stakeholders, members and staff of the Legislature, the Office of Youth Services (OYS), the Department of Public Safety, the Office of

Hawaiian Affairs, and other interested parties. It will take a committed community effort to address root causes to reduce the impact of incarceration on Hawaii's children and families, especially native Hawaiian families who are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation of general funds not replace budget priorities identified in the Executive Budget. It will take sustained investment by the Legislature to support this ongoing work to build a comprehensive and successful evidence-based approach to support families involved and impacted by the justice system.

We also ask for the Legislature's support for DHS administration measure SB3111/HB2143 Relating to Family Resource Centers. DHS, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and community providers are partnering to pilot a family resource centers network of school- and community-based family resource centers. If both measures pass, the Waiawa family resource center will be a part of the broader network of family resource centers. Family Resource Centers aim to provide support and services to families in familiar settings of their schools and communities, with people they trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Finance

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 23, 2022, 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1741, H.D. 1
Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa Correctional Facility and would continue a working group to address visitation and support needs of children and families of incarcerated individuals. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but offers a **technical amendment** on the proposed exemption of the Family Reunification Working Group from chapter 92, HRS, **only part I of which is the Sunshine Law**.

According to the bill, the group was established in January 2014 by the Keiki Caucus, which OIP understands to be a group of interested legislators working together with other government officials, advocates, and community members. Since the group was apparently not established by a legislative Act or similarly formal process, it would not have been subject to the Sunshine Law when established in 2014. HCR 205 / SCR 7 of 2019, which asked the Department of Human Services “in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, . . .to work with the Keiki Caucus’s Family Reunification Working Group and other community

stakeholders to develop a plan to establish children-friendly and family-friendly visitation centers at all State correctional prisons and jails[,]” also would not have made the group subject to the Sunshine Law because a group established by legislative resolution does not meet the Sunshine Law’s definition of a board in the same way a group established by an Act. Thus, **OIP believes the effect of the exemption proposed by this bill would not be to exempt an existing Sunshine Law board from the Sunshine Law, but instead to ensure that an existing group currently not subject to the Sunshine Law does not become subject to the Sunshine Law** through being directed by this bill to do specified work and report back to the Legislature.

Because the effect of this exemption would be to keep the status quo for an existing working group which has apparently been working effectively for eight years, **OIP does not object to the exemption from the Sunshine Law in this instance. However, OIP notes that the Sunshine Law is only part I of chapter 92, so if the intent of this Committee is to exempt the working group from the Sunshine Law but not the remainder of chapter 92 (including authorization to charge for copies of government records), the exemption on bill page eight, lines 13-14, should be from “part I of chapter 92” rather than “chapter 92.”**

Thank you for considering OIP’s testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1741, H.D. 1

February 23, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1741, H.D. 1, does the following: 1) requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to work with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) and other entities to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) on O'ahu beginning August 1, 2022; 2) requires DHS to continue to lead a working group to address visitation and support needs of children and families of incarcerated individuals; 3) requires the working group to submit a report to the Legislature before the 2023 Regular Session; and 4) appropriates unspecified amounts of general funds to DHS and PSD, respectively, for the establishment of a pilot visitation and family resource center at WCF.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

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's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

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

February 20, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1741 HD 1 RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

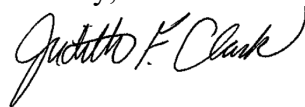
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1741 HD 1 Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals.

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



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

2:30 PM

HB 1741 HD1 - STRONG SUPPORT FOR FAMILY VISITATION & RESOURCE CENTER

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita 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 more than 4,052 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety or the corporate vendor on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,111 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 1741 HD1 continues the work with the Department of Human Services and the Family Reunification Working Group to create a Family Visitation and Resource Center at Waiawa Correctional Facility that was stalled because of COVID.

Maintaining the connections of families and loved ones has been proven by 50 years of research. Visitation, mail, phone, and other forms of contact between incarcerated people and their families have positive impacts for everyone – including better health, reduced recidivism, and improvement in school.

The positive effects of visitation have been well-known for decades – particularly when it comes to reducing recidivism. A 1972 study on visitation that followed 843 people on parole from California prisons found that those who had no visitors during their incarceration were *six times more likely* to be reincarcerated than people with three or more visitors. A few years later, researchers found similar results in a study of people paroled from Hawaii State Prison.¹

¹ Research roundup: The positive impacts of family contact for incarcerated people and their families, Leah Wang, December 21, 2021. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/12/21/family_contact/

In a little more than a year, in 2023, mass incarceration reaches a major milestone: its 50th birthday. Incarceration affects not the people for whom this event has become so common but their families, especially their children. Until mass incarceration came into being in the early 1970s, prison and jail incarceration were so uncommon that while they were tragic outcomes for individuals and those tied to them, their broader social importance would have simply paled in comparison to other institutional contacts. This could hardly be less the case now.

For mass incarceration to exacerbate inequality among families, it must be unequally distributed and do harm. If family member incarceration merely reflects existing disadvantage, it is unlikely to exacerbate inequality much, if at all. But this is not the case; across a range of indicators, we find that family member incarceration has negative effects on family well-being above and beyond existing disadvantages prior to incarceration.

There is probably no area of greater consensus in the field than regarding the effects of paternal incarceration on children's behavioral and mental health problems. Although no one dataset is ideally suited to consider these effects, and obstacles to causal inference remain, research using a range of datasets ties paternal incarceration to greater behavioral and mental health problems in children. Although there is evidence for both externalizing and internalizing behavioral problems, evidence regarding externalizing and physically aggressive behaviors tends to be the strongest; it also tends to suggest that male children are more affected in this domain than female children.

These behavioral and mental health indicators are tightly linked with school readiness, and, as a result, it is perhaps unsurprising that children with incarcerated fathers are less prepared to enter school than their peers. Yet children of incarcerated fathers face even more impediments to thriving in educational institutions after they set foot in the classroom. Having been incarcerated promotes withdrawal from educational institutions on the part of their parents. In conjunction with the stigma attached to paternal incarceration in the eyes of teachers, this leaves children of incarcerated fathers in triple jeopardy in schools—unprepared, with disengaged parents, and carrying the stigma of paternal incarceration. Given the strikes against them, it is no great surprise that children with incarcerated fathers are more likely to be held back in school, have lower cognitive functioning in middle childhood than their peers, and perform more poorly on a range of indicators of school success in high school.²

A 2014 study of incarcerated women found that those who had any phone contact with a family member were less likely to be reincarcerated within the five years after their release. In fact, phone contact had a stronger effect on recidivism compared to visitation, which the study also examined.

Of course, reduced recidivism is not the only benefit. A 2020 survey of incarcerated parents showed that **parent-child relationships improved** when they had frequent (weekly) phone calls.³

² Assessing mass incarceration's effects on families, HEDWIG LEE AND CHRISTOPHER WILDEMAN, SCIENCE • 14 Oct 2021 • Vol 374, Issue 6565 • pp. 277-281 • DOI: 10.1126/science.abj7777. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj7777>

³ See FN 1

The Family Reunification Group, of which Community Alliance on Prisons is a proud member, is composed of community organizations, families, and concerned community members who have been working on this issue for several years. The group was brought together by Blueprint for Change and the Department of Human Services and we have been working with the Department of Public Safety to bring this to reality. The group issued a report that is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Maintaining connections with loved ones *IS* a reentry strategy that helps ease the transition from institutional to community life and back to family. Children are especially impacted by the incarceration of a parent as noted in the research.

I remember when I first went into the women's prison and witnessed mothers and daughters, sisters, cousins, aunties, and even grandmas, all serving time together. It made an indelible mark on my heart. A few years later Community Alliance on Prisons convened a group of families and the stories they shared have made the issue of maintaining connections a key part of our work.

This is a model collaboration of government agencies, community organizations, and concerned citizens working together to make the Family Visitation and Resource Center at Waiawa a reality.

We trust that the legislature cares about Hawai'i's families and understands the importance of this bill to stop the intergenerational incarceration that shocked the Department of Justice when they came to Hawai'i in 1998.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Luke, Chair
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1741 HD1-relating to children and family of incarcerated individuals**
2:30 PM, February 23, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, we are writing to support in STRONG support HB 1741 HD1, relating to children and family of incarcerated individuals.

The lack of parental contact during incarceration is incredibly detrimental to the child and the family as a whole. It is a sad reality that collateral and misplaced punitive punishment falls on the children of incarcerated individuals. There is no reason a child should be denied a relationship with their parent simply because they are incarcerated.

Additionally, the lack of visitation is counterproductive to the supposed goal of incarceration. If the goal of incarceration is to rehabilitate individuals so that they do not end up incarcerated again, then it is integral to take into account the factors that play a role in recidivism. There is national data that finds incarcerated individuals are less likely to recidivate and more likely to have a successful re-entry into society when they can maintain contact with their loved ones. The family acts as an important support system for individuals coming out of correctional facilities. Creating visitation centers staffed by social service professionals, families will be provided the opportunity to receive information and referral and resource linkage services, guidance and counseling, and wrap-around services.

Hawai'i should invest in a Family Visitation Center, as proposed in the bill. We will be helping families sustain meaningful relationships through incarceration, and also save the state dollars in the future by reducing our prison population and welfare costs.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director Early Learning and Healthy Policy

TO: House Committee on Finance

RE: HB1741

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

February 22, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committees:

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 explore 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 SB2306:

- 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 continue 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.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1741. Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Date: February 22, 2022

To: House Finance Committee
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1741 – Relating to Children and Families of Incarcerated Individuals

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS strongly supports HB1741, requiring the department of human services to work with the department of public safety and other entities to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu.

National data shows that incarcerated individuals who maintain regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivate when they reenter society. The State of California has successfully operated visitation centers like those being proposed by the bill for over thirty years.

HB1741 would do the following

- Encourage families to stay in frequent contact with their significant others who are incarcerated. This is especially important for children with incarcerated parents, who may be able to maintain relationships over the course of their lifetimes;
- 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;
- Provide relevant cultural counseling and problem-solving practices from kupuna and Hawaiian cultural practitioners; and
- Provide an opportunity to 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.

Mahalo for your continued support to improve the health, safety and well-being of our youngest keiki an their `ohana. We appreciate you supporting **HB1741**.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

TIME: 2:30 PM, Via Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR HB1741 RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Women's Prison Project **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB1741. The negative impacts on children and families of incarcerated parents is well documented. Research also links the maintenance of parent child relationships with positive post release outcomes. Visitations need to occur in settings that are child friendly and not frightening or traumatizing to children.

The working group led by the Department of Human Services and established by House Concurrent Resolution No. 205 (2019) and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7 (2019) has made significant progress in identifying the needs of Hawaii's approximately 4,000 children affected by parental incarceration. Women's Prison Project strongly supports developing a non-threatening, child friendly visitation center at Waiawa correctional facility staffed by trauma informed professionals. We urge the legislature to appropriate the funds necessary to establish, develop, and implement the pilot visitation and family resource center through contracts with a non-profit organization experienced in working with children and families.

An inviting child visitation center will help to strengthen parent child bonds and reduce trauma and separation for children. It will also be an important move toward a more rehabilitative system that reduces recidivism.

Linda Rich for Women's Prison Project

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:59:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Muriel M Keliioomalu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Muriel Mililani Keliioomalu

House Committee on Finance

HB1741 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

February 02, 2022

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee:

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT HB1741:

- 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 continue 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.
- Further, a Vera Institute study, published in October 2012, found that “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.”
- According to research published in *Western Criminology Review* in 2006, “a remarkably consistent association has been found between family contact during incarceration and lower recidivism rates.”
- Correctional practices that “facilitate and strengthen family connections during incarceration” can “reduce the strain of parental separation, reduce recidivism rates, and increase the likelihood of successful re-entry,” according to a 2005 report by the Re-Entry Policy Council.
- According to the 2011 Vera Institute study, “Many family members also indicated that prison rules and practices – including searches, long waits, and inconsistent interpretations of dress codes for visitors – can be unclear, unpleasant, too restrictive, and even keep people from visiting again.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1741. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

--

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

M. Mililani Kelihoomalū

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:49:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathleen O'Dell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kathleen O'Dell

House Committee on Finance

HB1741 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

February 22, 2022

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee:

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT HB1741:

- 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 continue 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.
- Further, a Vera Institute study, published in October 2012, found that “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.”
- According to research published in *Western Criminology Review* in 2006, “a remarkably consistent association has been found between family contact during incarceration and lower recidivism rates.”
- Correctional practices that “facilitate and strengthen family connections during incarceration” can “reduce the strain of parental separation, reduce recidivism rates, and increase the likelihood of successful re-entry,” according to a 2005 report by the Re-Entry Policy Council.
- According to the 2011 Vera Institute study, “Many family members also indicated that prison rules and practices – including searches, long waits, and inconsistent interpretations of dress codes for visitors – can be unclear, unpleasant, too restrictive, and even keep people from visiting again.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1741. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kathleen O’Dell, PhD

Name, Title, Organization

TO: House Committee on Finance

RE: HB1741 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF
INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

POSITION: **STRONGSUPPORT**

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Contact Information (email, phone)

Name, Title, Organization

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- According to the 2011 Vera Institute study, “Many family members also indicated that prison rules and practices – including searches, long waits, and inconsistent interpretations of dress codes for visitors – can be unclear, unpleasant, too restrictive, and even keep people from visiting again.”
- Lastly, the HCR 205 Working Group, which includes representation from DHS and PSD, recommends this as a strategy for improving visitation centers throughout the State corrections system.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1741. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Contact Information (email, phone)

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:26:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1741 HD1.

HB1741 HD1 requires the department of human services to work with the department of public safety and other entities to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at Waiawa correctional facility on Oahu. It also requires the department of human services to continue to lead a working group to address visitation and support needs of children and families of incarcerated individuals. The working group is required to submit a report to the legislature before the 2023 regular session. HB1741 HD1 also appropriates funds for this project.

The failure of our criminal justice system has led to high rates of recidivism, ever increasing costs, and no improvement in public safety. What is missing is a concerted effort to establish cost-effective programs that rehabilitate offenders and assist their reentry into society. National as well as Hawaii data show that incarcerated individuals who are able to maintain strong family ties are much less likely to recidivate.

Rather than making it harder for incarcerated people to have contacts with their families, it is in our best interests to encourage and provide opportunities to strengthen family relationships. This is what the Family Visitation and Resource Center created by HB1741 HD1 at the Waiawa correctional facility will do. This Waiawa facility will become a model for effectively addressing the needs and concerns of families. It will be staffed by social service professionals who will provide information, referrals, and connections to resources, guidance and counseling, and other wrap-around services to help maintain strong family relationships, reintegrate released inmates into society, and break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration.

HB1741 HD1 allocates sufficient funding for this project. It will be money well spent.