

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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COMMITTEE ON HUMN SERVICES

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

3:05 PM

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

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura & Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara & DeCoite and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,997 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety or the corporate vendor as of March 14, 2022¹. We are always mindful that 1,110 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1741 HD1 that continues the work with the Departments of Human Services, Public Safety, and the Family Reunification Working Group to create a Family Visitation and Resource Center at Waiawa Correctional Facility that was stalled because of COVID.

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.

¹ Department of Public Safety Weekly Population Report.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-14.pdf>

The group issued a report that is available to review electronically at the Department of Human Services website, at: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

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.

In testimony before FIN on February 23, 2022, The Department of Human Services wrote: *“The recommended appropriation amounts in the HCR 205 Report were the prepandemic 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.”*

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.²

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

² 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/

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.

This was really brought home to me when I was invited to speak at the First International Conference of Children of Incarcerated Parents in Aotearoa. There I met a 10-year old girl who wrote a book called, "EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES, Living With My Daddy In Jail." Madison Stempak's book is full of advice for kids with incarcerated parents as well as illustrations, pages for kids to write their own stories, and even recipes! On page 30 from Madison's book there is an illustration of her real life school experience in a letter she sent to her Daddy that reads...

"Dear Daddy,
Today I was sitting next to 3 boys who were talking about how perfect there dad was. I almost started to cry.
Love, Madison

P.S. Here is a pic of these boys (3 stick figures with the caption: Our Dad is Perfect') with an arrow pointing to 'them' and next is Madison with 'me' above her crying stick figure and the caption: My Dad isn't perfect. He's in jail.

They have the right to say that. But it's not true. I couldn't concentrate at all. I was concentrating on you. Not math.
Love you tons and tons Madison."

Please read her words of wisdom and see her poignant illustration of what children with a parent in jail go through as she navigates the path forward while her Daddy is in jail. Madison speaks for so many of the experiences of 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.³

³ 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>

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.⁴

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 and in Madison's Book.

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.

HB 1741 HD1 demonstrates 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. It is a replicable model for other projects.

We know that projects like this work - 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.

We know that the legislature cares about Hawai'i's families and we mahalo you for caring. Community Alliance on Prisons underscores the importance of this bill to stop the intergenerational incarceration that shocked the Department of Justice when they came to Hawai'i in 1998, as one of eight jurisdictions with the highest methamphetamine use. They met with agencies, community folks, and treatment programs about the use of meth/ice in Hawai'i. They concluded that they had not seen the level of intergenerational incarceration they witnessed in Hawai'i anywhere else.

HB 1741 HD1 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.

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks for this committee's kokua in passing HB 1741 HD1 that starts to address the impacts of intergenerational incarceration on families, and especially their keiki.

⁴ See FN 1

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
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MAX N. OTANI
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Maria C. Cook
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Administration

Tommy Johnson
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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

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 22, 2022; 3:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225 and Via Videoconference

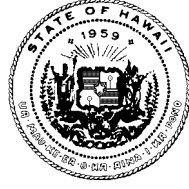
Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and members of both Committees:

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 the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF), and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding for FY 2022-23 for this purpose.

PSD continues to strongly support the intent of HB 1741, HD 1, with the understanding that there are currently no funds in the Department's budget for FY 2022-23 to support this initiative. Because the previously quoted amount of \$115,000 is more than two years old, PSD respectfully requests that there be further discussions with the proponents and DHS to reevaluate the amounts that will be needed to begin the project, as well as to maintain it on an annual basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1741, HD1.

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

March 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 22, 2022, 3:05 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 pre-pandemic estimates. Due to the pandemic, we continue to mitigate the way we deliver services and pay 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.



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: Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Ihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Nishihara, Chair
Senator DeCoite, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military affairs

Re: **HB 1741 HD1-relating to children and family of incarcerated individuals**
3:05 PM, March 22, 2022

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Ihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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.

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 become incarcerated again, then we must consider the factors that play a role in recidivism. National data 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 this proposed a Family Visitation Center. 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



**Blueprint
FOR Change**

“Blueprint for Change develops and supports community-driven services that promote the well-being of children and families.”

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

FROM: Shayne Kukunaokalā Yoshimoto, Executive Director

RE: HB1741 HD1 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 3:05 PM

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees!

My name is Shayne Kukunaokalā Yoshimoto and I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change, which 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 which includes representatives from DHS, PSD, ACLU, Kamehameha Schools, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and a number of community-based non-profit organizations, 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 HB1741 HD1:

- 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 HD1. Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committees on Human Services and on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: March 22, 2022, 3:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 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

Senate Committees on Human Services and on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs

March 22, 2022

Page 2 of 2

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” and not the entire “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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1741, H.D. 1

March 22, 2022
3:05 p.m.
Room 225 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

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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

March 16, 2022

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs

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

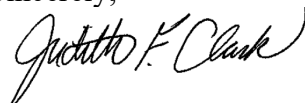
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1741 HD 1 Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals.

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

To: Committee on Human Services and Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 3:05 PM

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1741 HD1

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Nishihara and members of the committees

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) strongly supports HB 1741 HD1 which would establish a pilot visitation center at Waiawa correctional facility that would support children to visit their parents while incarcerated. Research shows that if people can continue relationships with their children that the outcomes are much better: lower recidivism, less adjustment challenges with the children and increased connection to family and community. This pilot will demonstrate what we already know – the more community and family connections that can be maintained while someone is incarcerated, the better integration and opportunities they will have.

HHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:46:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports HB1741. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

Date: March 16, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1741 HD1 – 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 HD1, 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 HD1 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 HD1**.

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:08:42 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Farnsworth	Testifying for Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The 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.”

This is especially important for parents of children under 5 years of age

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees!

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT HB1741 HD1:

1. The visitation centers will encourage families to stay in frequent contact with their significant others who are incarcerated;
2. The data shows that incarcerated individuals who maintain regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivate when they reenter society. 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;”
3. Having the visitation centers staffed by social service professionals will help families navigate the system with opportunities to receive information and referral and resource linkage services, guidance and counseling, wrap-around services to address issues relating to poverty, etc;
4. Visitation centers could also be staffed with kupuna and Hawaiian cultural practitioners who could provide Native Hawaiian families with valuable relevant cultural counseling and problem-solving practices;
5. 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. 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
6. 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 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this need.

Keith Kuboyama, LCSW
Family Programs Hawaii
President and CEO



HB1741 HD1 Pilot Visitation and Resource Center for Families at Waiawa
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Tuesday Mar 22 2022 : 3:05 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Strongly Supports HB1741 HD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

Visitation and Resources are important because family visits help families to stop the intergenerational cycle of alcohol and drug dependency:

- Visitation can help rebuild relationships to promote recovery for both the offender and their families, especially for children.
- Often families can help offenders to seek appropriate residential and outpatient programs for those who may have substance use disorders as well as co-occurring mental health disorders.
- Offenders and their families need reconciliations that can promote an opportunity to address their spiritual, physical, cultural and emotional needs.

This bill is important because according to the 2017 National Institute of Justice report¹, **children of offenders are the “hidden victims”** facing a host of challenges and difficulties, stresses, and strains:

- Research demonstrates that the strength of the parent-child bond in healthy ways can play significant roles in the child’s ability to overcome these challenges.
- About 11% of children have a parent who was or is involved with criminal justice,
- Moreover, on the average, the mother is the primary support for the child,
- Children of incarcerated parents are 6-7 times more likely to be incarcerated themselves.

¹ National Institute for Justice: 2017: Hidden Consequences: The Impact of Incarceration on Dependent Children: <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/hidden-consequences-impact-incarceration-dependent-children>

It is critical for our families that we promote recovery in many ways to ensure a successful re-entry for the offender that supports positive family growth.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 6:28:35 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheri Richards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1741 and you should be too!. I believe in programs that will assist our kanaka when re-entering into society, especially kanaka that have keiki. Prevention and support is something that we all should take a closer look into and provide funds that will help incarcerated mothers and fathers to reconnect and bond with thier children. I believe in Hawaiian culture and allowing Kupuna to assist in the process and for that reason, I am all in for HB1741.

Mahalo,

Cheri Richards

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:17:47 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shy Helm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

HB1741 HD1 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 3:05 PM

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees!

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT HB1741 HD1:

- 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, Shy Helm, strongly urge the committee to pass HB1741 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:26:56 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen O'Dell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

HB1741 HD1 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 3:05 PM

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees!

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT HB1741 HD1:

- 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 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD

Kailua-Kalaheo Complex CAO, HIDOE

La Vonne Richardson
67-229 A Kuhi Place
Waialua, HI 96791

TO: **Senate Committee on Human Services**
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

FROM: **HB1741 HD1 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS**

STRONG SUPPORT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 3:05 PM

Aloha, Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees:

The following are reasons for my STRONG SUPPORT HB1741 HD1:

- 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 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

La Vonne Richardson

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 7:28:19 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families are where support comes from and to be reinforced of their love for the inmate secures their emotional well being. Without this, it is difficult for them to move forward.

I humbly ask for your favor for this bill and thank you for the opportunity to voice my support.

Mahalo and Aloha

e. ileina funakoshi

March 18, 2022

To: Senator Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Ihara, jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Nishihara, Chair
Senator DeCoite, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs
Senator Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: **HB 1741- Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals**
3:05 PM, March 22, 2022

Chair Buenaventura, Vice chair Ihara Jr., Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and all committee members respectively.

I, Abigail Domen, as an individual and current social work student am writing in **strong support of HB 1741 – Relating to children and family of incarcerated individuals.**

As someone who was a child of an incarcerated individual, the lack of contact and support played a big part in the disconnection and ultimately strained relationship of my biological father and me. Now as an adopted child I can see the strain it is having on my baby brother as his biological and my adopted father is incarcerated. There is no reason a child should be denied a relationship with their parent because of incarceration.

Additionally, the role of visitation has shown that when an incarcerated individual maintains positive relationships with family there is a lower chance of recidivism and a higher chance of successful reentry into society. **Creating child-friendly visitation programs will allow families to maintain their familial bond and reduce the negative impacts for both the incarcerated individual and the child(ren).** Correctional facilities are not meant for children and can be traumatizing for them to experience, and they should not be denied the relationship. Staffing these programs with **trauma-informed workers and creating age-appropriate information** can help families navigate the process of incarceration while maintaining relationships with each other and the community.

Again, I, **Abigail Domen, strongly supports HB 1741 -relating to children and family of incarcerated individuals.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill, I hope the committees can see the importance of it.

Respectfully,
Abigail Domen

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 1:48:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Takehiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

HB1741 HD1 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 3:05 PM

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees!

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT HB1741 HD1:

- 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 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Paul Takehiro

1317 Railroad Ave.

Hilo, HI 96720

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:04:45 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Curran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite and Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

My name is Lee Curran and I am testifying as an individual who is a co-facilitator of the Transformative Justice Task Force which is part of Faith Action for Community Equity, (FACE). I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1741 HD1.

We need to put a FACE on the people of Hawai'i who are burdened and often traumatized by the criminal legal system in Hawai'i. This system doesn't just impact incarcerated individuals, it also impacts their families, communities, essentially **ALL** of us.

Providing visitation centers as stipulated in this bill can have the following positive and proactive impacts:

- 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.

This last point about breaking the cycle of incarceration that can be generational and trauma inducing is a proactive way to prevent future crimes, protect potential future victims and provide pathways for healing and care in our communities.

HB1471 HD11, when paired with other transformative justice bills addressing cash bail, probation and parole reform, provides amazing pathways to divert money currently spent on incarceration to humane, compassionate, trauma informed actions!

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG Support** of HB1741 HD1 and ask that this message of change, grounded in care, compassion and community, sits on your hearts and impacts your decision-making as you create laws that recognize the humanity and inherent dignity and worth of the people of Hawai'i now and in future generations.

Lee Curran, Makaha, HI

To: Chair Joy Buenaventura, Vice Chair Les Ihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Chair Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair Lynn DeCoite, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

From: Kiley Igarashi

Date: March 22, 2022

Written Testimony in Support of HB 1741, HD1- Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals

Chair Buenaventura, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Ihara, Vice Chair De Coite, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kiley Igarashi and I am a MSW Candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying in support of HB 1741 HD 1, Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals.

As a social work student specializing in behavioral mental health, I believe that the relationship between children and their parents greatly impacts both parties' mental health. Adjusting to this separation is physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging for the entire family. Research shows that incarcerated parents who maintain a relationship with their children decrease their risk for recidivism, and increase their chances of successfully re-entering back into the community. Additionally, studies have shown that children's risk for experiencing mental and behavioral issues decreases when they maintain contact with their incarcerated parents.

This opportunity to sustain the parent-child relationship through utilizing family visitation and resource centers will have lasting, positive impacts on not only children and their parents, but on their entire family and community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1741 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Kiley Igarashi

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:56:18 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

TO: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

RE: HB1741 (**In Support**)

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:05 PM Room 225 and Videoconference

Dear Chairs SanBuenaventura and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Ihara and DeCoite and Members of the Committees,

I am Wendy Gibson-Viviani, an RN who has lived on Oahu for 29 years. Please accept this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1741**, which will create a Pilot Family-friendly visitation center program.

I believe the National data showing that incarcerated individuals who maintain regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivate when they reenter society.

I agree with the Community Alliance on Prisons who envision that:

- 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.

Please support providing family-friendly visitation centers for the incarcerated. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

Stephen Morse, MSW

TO: Senate Committees on Human Services and Public Safety,
Intergovernmental , and Military Affairs

RE: HB1741, HD 1 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF
INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

POSITION: **STRONGSUPPORT**

March 22, 2022

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Ihara and DeCoite Yamashita and members of the committee. My name is Stephen Morse. I have been a practicing social worker in the State of Hawai'i for over 50 years.

The following are reasons for my STRONG SUPPORT of HB1741, HD 1:

- 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.”
 - 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 committees to pass HB1741, HD 1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:21:47 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mai Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe `ohana should remain together, especially during tough times. I fully support this bill

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:35:10 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 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. And it further requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature before the 2023 regular session as well as appropriates funds.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1741 HD1. The family visitation and resource center will enable incarcerated individuals to maintain strong relationships with their children and other family members.

By developing a strong support network, incarcerated individuals will more successfully adapt to life in the community upon release. A successful transition into the community means that individuals will be less likley to recidivate and have a greater chance of becoming productive members of society.

The family visitation and resource center would be staffed by social service professionals who can provide valuable information and referrals to help with the transition to community life. They may also provide culturally relevant counseling and problem solving practices.

If the family visitation and resource center assists released individuals to successfully transition into community life, it will be a small price to pay. Without common-sense reentry assistance, we are basically setting up individuals to fail and the high cost of recidivism falls on Hawaii taxpayers. More people are becoming aware that our criminal justice system is anything but just. And the more we can do to help released individuals to get a good start when they are released will be money well spent.

LATE

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:21:26 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Penn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will help the children of the incarcerated. We must stop this vicious cycle.

HB-1741-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:35:17 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/22/2022 3:05:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Malia Peters. I am a parent of a child whose father was incarcerated 25 years ago. I strongly support HB 1741 HD1 relating to children and families of incarcerated individuals.

Twenty-five years ago our lives were forever changed when my ex-husband committed a horrible crime sentencing him to a 20 year prison sentence, which left my three-year-old son and I abruptly in a very difficult situation. While we understood the severity of his crime and prison sentence, we've had a long and challenging road ever since. Helping families of prisoners who are left behind has become a passion in my life, encouraging them that they too can overcome these challenging situations. My testimony is simply because of the difficulties I experiences when I went through this time in our lives, and I'd like to do anything possible to help families so they don't have to go through what we did with hopes they will have a higher chance of decreasing the cycle of incarceration.

There are various estimates of the number of children nationwide who have at least one parent that is incarcerated (over 2 million), and we are still working to grasp the number of families affected here in our State of Hawaii. Studies have shown that in terms of negative impacts on children, incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the divorce of parents. When a parent passes away or when parents divorce, families receive a lot of sympathy, love, compassion, and financial support. In Hawaii, to make a divorce official, families are required to attend "Kids First", a program to help families survive divorce. However, when a parent is sentenced to prison, there is no "program" or "class" to attend, and very often there is no sympathy, but instead a "stigma" that is attached to these children/spouses/families. Many family members witnessed or were the victim of the crime, and there is often no emotional or financial assistance. The surviving spouse, significant other, or grandparent is often the sole provider putting physical, emotional, mental, and financial strain on families.

Something more concerning is the evidence that children who have a parent in prison are more likely to become incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing the "cycle of incarceration" that sadly becomes generational in some families.

Having been through this personally, I can tell you first-hand how difficult this experience was for my son and I. I never wanted to ask for help for fear that I would minimize the horrible crime that my husband had committed, and/or offend the victim and their family. I also didn't

ask for help because I was embarrassed to share why my husband was incarcerated. I was afraid that what he did would be a reflection on me and my own character. When I became desperate enough to seek assistance, I didn't know where to turn, and when I did try to apply for various types of assistance, we didn't qualify because I was working. My single income was not sustainable to support my son and I, which forced me to take a second job. My son now lost both his parents, had emotional anxieties, became mute, and we had no medical coverage to get him the emotional support he needed. We needed help to learn how to cope, how to explain our situation, and where to go to access the different forms of support we needed. It was a horrible thing to go through and it is only by the grace of God, the family I was blessed with, that I am able to stand strong today, with my son grown and by my side, sharing my story with each of you.

I cannot emphasize enough how much support at the initial time of and throughout incarceration could have made a tremendous difference for us. Waiting until they are about to be released to try to re-engage them with their families is too late. The time of incarceration was the most difficult. Countless hours are spent wastefully getting to the prison early to get your place in line and then waiting to be processed and granted entrance for our visit. It would be so productive to have a Visitation Center that could provide counseling services, resources to direct assistance, in addition to an area that provides educational toys, books, ipads etc. so that adults and children of various ages can pass the time in a positive, productive way with both receiving comfort and support simultaneously in a very intentional environment.

I would oppose any fear or concern that something like this would give an impression that prison is a "fun" place. There will need to be a firm reminder of the situation at hand, however, I still dream of the amazing difference this could have made for us when we were lost, alone, and feeling despair and hopelessness.

Without these basic support services that a Visitation Center could provide, we will miss the opportunity to be able to offer hope and opportunity to implement a new way reaching these families with the intent to decrease the unique circumstances families of this population of our society face. We need to reduce the cycle of incarceration and we should do whatever we can to seek out new ideas and opportunities to do so.

Please support HB1741 HD1. Mahalo nui to each of you for your service, and for your consideration of this letter of support.

With much aloha and blessings,

Malia Peters