

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

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Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1741
RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.
by
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2022; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430 & Via Video Conference

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

House Bill (HB) 1741, 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 appropriates an unspecified amount of funding for FY 2022-23 for this purpose.

PSD supports the intent of HB 1741 and although supportive, the Department notes that it does not have the funding in our current budget to support this initiative. Therefore, PSD respectfully requests that there be further discussion with the proponents and DHS clarify the initial and subsequent annual costs needed to begin and maintain this worthwhile project.

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

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:47:24 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ericka Chavez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Ericka Chavez. I am a resident of Pukalani, Maui and testifying in favor of HB1741. I work as a social worker in the Child Welfare Services field and volunteer to organize Camp Piliialoha O Maui, a 4 day camp for children of incarcerated parents on Maui. In my experience many incarcerated parents in Hawaii are not serving a life sentence and will be released back into our community and into their families. A family friendly visitation center would allow children to remain connected to their parents by allowing a safe place for family members to spend quality time together and maintain the family connection while a family member is away completing their sentence. By creating a center that allows family to come together, incarcerated individuals can further work to integrate themselves back into the community when released by removing the factor of isolation from their familial bonds. Allowing family members to visit in a noninstitutionalized type setting would keep incarcerated parents connected to their children outside the walls of Waiawa. I have personally observed children who are disconnected from parents who are incarcerated and have no opportunity to create and/or continue family bonds. The effect is disheartening and detrimental to the child's emotional development, often leading children to misbehave themselves and potentially start behaviors that could lead to the cycle of generational incarceration. Creating an opportunity and space for these children to see their parents while they are away would lessen the negative behavioral and emotional consequences that a child can experience once a parent is gone from the home. This bill would be an opportunity to break the cycle of incarceration that we witness on our islands, especially in the Native Hawaiian community. A 2005 Re-Entry Policy Council report shows that these type of correctional practices strengthen family connections during incarceration and reduce the strain of parental separation and reduce recidivism rates.

I support HB1741 in order to allow children to remain connected to incarcerated family members, to help reduce recidivism within incarcerated individuals and break the cycle of generational incarceration within the Native Hawaiian community. Mahalo.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1741
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 comments on the proposal to exempt the Family Reunification Working Group from chapter 92, HRS, 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 9-10, should be from “part I of chapter 92” rather than “chapter 92.”**

Thank you for considering OIP’s testimony.

To: Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans

Hearing Date/Time: Friday February 4, 2022

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1741

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) strongly supports HB 1741 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



2/3/2022
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB1741, Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals

Aloha chair, vice chair, and members of the corrections, military, and veterans committee.

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports the intent of house bill 1741.

Family-friendly visitor centers will encourage families to keep regular contact with their incarcerated caregiver and/or partner. National data shows that incarcerated individuals who keep regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivate when reentering society.

According to the 2011 Vera Institute study, "Many family members 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 reduce the likelihood of future visits."

Additionally, having visitation centers staffed by social service professionals will provide families with support opportunities such as referral and resource information to community-based services, guidance and counseling, and wrap-around services to address issues related to poverty (shelter and food security, income, et cetera). These services must incorporate culturally relevant strategies to provide equitable services.

House bill 1741 provides additional opportunity to begin the work of breaking the incarceration cycle. It provides stakeholders with the opportunity to continue the conversation about how this work is continued. Finally, it will provide more information and community-based services needed to help families sustain themselves and reduce the State's prison population and welfare costs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alec Marentic, President-Elect
Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists (HASP)
Email: hasp808@gmail.com

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:00:03 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nikos Leverenz | Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center | Support | No |

Comments:

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center supports HB 1741.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

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: Representative Ohno, Chair
Representative Ganaden, Vice Chair
House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

Re: **HB 1741-relating to children and family of incarcerated individuals**
10:00 AM, February 4, 2022

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, we are writing to support in STRONG support HB 1741, 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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair

Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2022

10:00 AM

HB 1741 - STRONG SUPPORT FOR FAMILY VISITATION & RESOURCE CENTER

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden 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 4,099 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 1,113 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 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.

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>

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

The Family Reunification Group is composed of community organization, 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.

We are grateful that Blueprint for Change, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Public Safety have been working together to make a Family Visitation and Resource Center at Waiawa a reality.

We hope that the legislature sees the importance of this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

³ See FN 1

S. Kukunaokalā Yoshimoto, Executive Director, Blueprint for Change

TO: House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

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

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

February 04, 2022

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, 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.”

S. Kukunaokalā Yoshimoto, Executive Director, Blueprint for Change

- 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 committee to pass HB1741. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:38:03 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Kathleen O'Dell, Phd

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

HB1741 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

February 03, 2022

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen O'Dell', is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'K'.

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD

Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Officer, HIDOE

Date: February 3, 2022

To: House Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Representative Sonny Ganaden, 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**.



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

February 4, 2022

TO: Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission

SUBJECT: **HB 1741, RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED
INDIVIDUALS**

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Corrections System Oversight Commission was created by Act 179, SLH 2019, to provide independent oversight over our correctional system. The Commission's statutory responsibilities include monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program of the Department of Public Safety and ensuring that the comprehensive offender reentry system under chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole. [See Hawaii Revised Statutes 353L-3(b).]

The Commission strongly supports HB 1741, which would require community-based work furlough programs for incarcerated women in Hawaii. This mandate would be consistent with the requirement in HRS 353H-3 that the Department of Public Safety develop a "comprehensive network of transitional programs to address the needs of individuals exiting the correctional system." Such a network promotes community safety by facilitating the adjustment from the highly structured prison setting to independent living.

Families play a crucial role in the rehabilitation of inmates. As such any network of transitional services must include meaningful reconnection with families, particularly if the inmate has children. Moreover, the challenges facing children of the incarcerated are well-documented. A visitation and resource center would help children deal with the trauma caused by parental incarceration.

We urge you your favorable consideration of this bill.

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:27:37 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wendy Gibson-Viviani | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair Sonny Ganaden, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB1741 which would allow for a Pilot Visitation and Family Resource Center for inmates.

This article (from a prison policy research group) shows the value of In-person visits, phone calls, mail and video calls. Outcomes include a reduction in recidivism and improvements in behavior and in health--of incarcerated adults and youth and their families :

Research roundup: The positive impacts of family contact for incarcerated people and their families

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/12/21/family_contact/

I hope that you will support this effort. Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:51:21 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| E. Ileina Funakoshi | PearlCity Neighborhood Board #21,Public Safety Committee | Support | No |

Comments:

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board #21 is supportive of the well being of the inmates, our ohana, of Hawaii. Therefore, we strongly support HB1741 to strengthen family ties even while the prisoner is incarcerated, with their families, especially for the sake of their children.

The board has submitted a resolution supporting the oversight commission's mission.

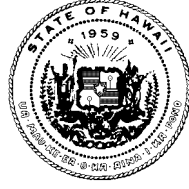
We humbly ask for your favorable consideration of this bill's passage.

Mahalo and Aloha

e. ileina funakoshi, Chair

Public Safety Committee

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 3, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: February 4, 2022, 10:00 a.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 is to require 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.

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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:03:21 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| La Vonne Richardson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LA VONNE MARIE KA'IULANI RICHARDSON

TO: House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans

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

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

February 04, 2022

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and members of the committee:

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT of HB1741:

1. Family-friendly visitation centers will encourage families to stay in frequent contact with their significant others who are incarcerated;
2. National data shows that incarcerated individuals who maintain regular contact with their children and families are less likely to recidivist each when they reenter society;
3. Having visitation centers staffed by social service professionals will provide families with opportunities to receive information and referral and resource linkage services, guidance and counseling, wrap around services to address issues relating to poverty, etc.
4. Visitation centers could also be staffed with kupuna and Hawaiian cultural practitioners who would provide Native Hawaiian families with more relevant cultural counseling and problem-solving practices;
5. The bill provides an opportunity to begin breaking the cycle of incarceration that is generational in some families;
6. 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

7. 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*.

8. 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 to 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."

9. According to research published in *Western Criminology Review* 2006, "a remarkably consistent association has been found between family contact during incarceration and recidivism rates."

10. 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 reentry," according to a 2005 report by the Re-Entry Policy Council.

11. 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."

12. 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.

lavonne@blueprintforchange.org / 808.798.8553

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:04:51 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1741 which would establish and fund a pilot visitation and family resource center at the Waiawa correctional facility and directs the Department of Human Services to continue to lead a working group to assess the needs of children and families of incarcerated individuals.

Maintaining and strengthening family relationships leads to many beneficial outcomes, including lowered risk of recidivism, improved health and behavior, reduced negative impacts of an individual's incarceration on their children and family members.

Please support HB 1741.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel, Honolulu

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:54:17 AM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Shy Helm | Blueprint For Change | Support | No |

Comments:

Shy Helm

House Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans

HB1741 - RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

STRONG SUPPORT

February 02, 2022

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1741

February 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 430 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 does the following: 1) require 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) require DHS to continue to lead a working group to address visitation and support needs of children and families of incarcerated individuals; 3) require the working group to submit a report to the Legislature before the 2023 Regular Session; and 4) appropriate 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 3, 2022

To: Representative, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Judiciary

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

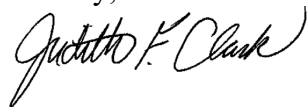
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1741 Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

GENE DEMELLO, JR.
CLAYTON H. W. HEE
MILTON H. KOTSUBO
CAROL K. MATAYOSHI
MEMBERS

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

KEVIN S. REGO
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HB 1741
RELATING TO CHILDREN & FAMILY OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

by
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chairman

Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair
Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference

Chair Ohno, Vice-Chair Ganaden, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports the intent of the bill knowingly realizing the significant benefits of uniting children and their parent(s). We would note that phone calls, zoom meetings are good, but physical appearance and contact reinforce the bonds of the family. In addition to victims of crime, children and spouse are the residual victims often forgotten in the process.

It is the hope these comments will provide new insights to the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:27:18 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Carolyn Eaton | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and members of this House committee. My name is Carolyn Eaton, and I raise my voice in strong support of HB 1741. Every occasion we provide for collaboration between one State agency and another can result in wise, creative choices for the perfection of State government. This bill requires such inter-agency work for maintaining closer ties between our people at Waiawa Correctional Facility and their families. These families, children and adult partners, have to live with involuntary separation from a loved one, often a wage-earner. For a child, this must seem senseless, a violent change in the life he or she has known. Providing visitation, consistent telephone connection and the chance to write and receive mail will mitigate the suffering which results from abrupt, prolonged separation. The word insult can be used to convey the senselessness the child experiences. Those who come to the proposed working group from outside DPS should bring this understanding and imbed it in our programs going forward. This is a vision I want to see realized in our State for every person affected by "Corrections." I include myself in this number because I make this State my home. Please advance and advocate for this bill and it's funding.

HB-1741

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:21:12 PM

Testimony for CMV on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Malia Peters | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Malia Peters. I am a parent of a child whose father was incarcerated over 25 years ago. I strongly support HB 1741 relating to thoughtful visitation opportunities for families affected by incarceration.

Twenty Five years ago our lives were forever changed when my husband at the time committed a horrible crime sentencing him to a 20 year prison sentence, which left our then three-year-old son and I very 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 and season in life. My testimony is simply because I would like to make their experience more positive than ours was, so that our state and society can have a better chance of decreasing the cycle of incarceration.

It's always been a concern of ours that research has shown 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 however 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. 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, healthy, and 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 not be able to provide hope and opportunity to implement something new to work with and hopefully decrease this population. We need to reduce the cycle of incarceration and we should do whatever we can to seek out new opportunities to do so.

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

With much aloha and blessings,

Malia Peters