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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a growing prison  
2 population has raised serious concerns regarding the collateral  
3 effects of incarceration on the children and families of  
4 incarcerated persons and the communities from which they came.  
5 According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics' most  
6 recent study on incarcerated parents in the United States, more  
7 than 1,700,000 minors, representing 2.3 per cent of the  
8 population, have at least one incarcerated parent.

9           The legislature further finds that the incarceration of a  
10 parent is a traumatic event for children. Studies show that a  
11 substantial number of incarcerated parents were deeply involved  
12 in their children's lives before imprisonment by providing daily  
13 care, as well as financial and emotional support. Studies also  
14 show that the incarceration of a parent is likely to result in  
15 unstable family relationships, poor academic performance,  
16 financial instability, material hardship, and social stigma.

17           Providing social services and programs for children who  
18 have a parent in the prison system supports the children's



1 emotional and behavioral well-being. Furthermore, providing  
2 support to incarcerated parents and their children preserves and  
3 strengthens family connections, which yield positive societal  
4 benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, less  
5 intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and  
6 improved healthy child development.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for  
8 programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and  
9 to assist with family reunification.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
13 funding programs and services for children of incarcerated  
14 parents and assisting with family reunification.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Incarcerated Parents; Children; Programs and Services;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the department of public safety for programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and to assist with family reunification. (SB2308 HD1)

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