

JAN 24 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO WORK WITH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WORKING GROUP AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH VISITATION CENTERS AT ALL STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND JAILS.

1 WHEREAS, as states grapple with the alarming statistics
2 regarding children of incarcerated parents nationwide, child
3 welfare servers and public safety stakeholders are acknowledging
4 the adverse childhood experiences and trauma faced by children
5 of incarcerated parents; and

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7 WHEREAS, child welfare servers and public safety
8 stakeholders are declaring that they will fulfill their duty to
9 ensure the rights and wellbeing of all children, including the
10 children of incarcerated parents; and

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12 WHEREAS, parental incarceration is a strong risk factor for
13 many adverse outcomes for children, including antisocial and
14 violent behavior, mental health problems, failure to graduate
15 from school, and unemployment; and

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17 WHEREAS, parental incarceration is now recognized as an
18 "adverse childhood experience"; it is distinguished from other
19 adverse childhood experiences by the unique combination of
20 trauma, shame, and stigma; and

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22 WHEREAS, the prison environment can be frightening and
23 traumatizing for children, both in the attitudes and behaviors
24 of prison staff as well as the physical setting of approved
25 visitation sites; and

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27 WHEREAS, visits can include long waits, body frisks, rude
28 treatment, exposure to crowded visiting rooms with no activities
29 for children; and



1 WHEREAS, such conditions do not encourage frequent visits
2 between incarcerated parents and their children, despite
3 findings from studies suggesting the maintenance of family ties
4 and parent-child relationships is linked to post-release
5 success, lower rates of recidivism, and fewer parole violations;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, the alarming rates of intergenerational
9 incarceration, which studies suggest may be attributed to the
10 lack of communication and maintenance of child-incarcerated
11 parent relationships; and

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13 WHEREAS, caring for children who are experiencing the
14 stigma and blame associated with parental incarceration is
15 particularly difficult for caregivers and may be emotionally and
16 physically taxing; and

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18 WHEREAS, Hawaii's correctional system can benefit from the
19 establishment of visitation centers at all local correctional
20 prisons and jails with the hope to strengthen, rebuild, and
21 reunify children with their incarcerated parents and ensure the
22 welfare and wellbeing of children of incarcerated parents; and

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24 WHEREAS, in January 2014, the legislative Keiki Caucus
25 established a working group to explore the issues surrounding
26 children and families impacted by incarceration, called the
27 Family Reunification Working Group, which consisted of
28 representatives from Blueprint for Change, Hawai'i Prisoner
29 Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, the Office of Hawaiian
30 Affairs, ALU LIKE, Inc., Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center,
31 Keiki O Ka Aina Learning Centers, Family Programs Hawai'i, Adult
32 Friends for Youth, Community Alliance on Prisons, TJ Mahoney,
33 Chaminade University's Native Hawaiian Program, and Makana O Ke
34 Akua Clean and Sober Living, and included parents of children
35 who have been affected by incarceration; now, therefore,

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
39 House of Representatives concurring, that during the 2018
40 legislative interim, the Department of Human Services, in
41 consultation with the Department of Public Safety, is requested
42 to work with the Keiki Caucus's Family Reunification Working



S.C.R. NO. 12

1 Group and other community stakeholders to develop a plan to
 2 establish children and family friendly visitation centers at all
 3 local correctional prisons and jails to ensure the wellbeing of
 4 children of incarcerated parents and their families; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 7 Services submit a report on the status of visitation centers,
 8 including any findings, recommendations, and proposed
 9 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 10 to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2019 and 2020; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
 14 Services, Director of Public Safety, and Chairperson of the
 15 Keiki Caucus's Family Reunification Working Group.
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OFFERED BY: Karl Rhoad

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