

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**

February 8, 2020

S.B. No. 2349: RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

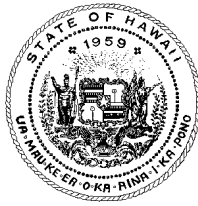
The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports S.B. 2349.

We strongly support any effort to maintain and foster the bonds between incarcerated persons and their families, especially with their children. Opportunities for incarcerated parents to have meaningful in-person contact visits with their children are increasingly being restricted. “No contact” visits are now the standard practice at Halawa Correctional Facility, Oahu Community Correctional Center, and Maui Community Correctional Center. An incarcerated parent with a child can no longer hold, touch or sit with their child. They must speak through glass or clear plastic partitions that restrict healthy and positive communication between an incarcerated parent and their child. This is particularly devastating for incarcerated parents with young children.

In addition, it is important for parents who visit their incarcerated adult child to be able to embrace and share physical contact in the interest of showing love, support and care. This helps maintain, repair and establish connections that are critical for a safe and secure re-entry into the community. Our office supports the intent of this measure as maintaining family bonds are in the public interest, in the best interest of the child(ren), in the best interest of incarcerated parents, and in the best interest of families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Shari L. Kimoto
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2349
RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE.**

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Tuesday, February 11, 2020; 1:35 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 2349, and respectfully requests that it be deferred, based on the following comments.

SB 2349 seeks to mandate contact visitation for inmates of correctional facilities, providing each inmate with a minimum of two contact visits per week, and allow the use of video or other types of electronic communication technologies to supplement, not replace, contact visits.

The Department recognizes the importance of the positive impacts that result when incarcerated individuals maintain meaningful connections with family members, especially as a critical element in inmates' rehabilitation. PSD further believes that contact visitation extended to family members, particularly children, can help to strengthen the parent-child relationship, while reducing the trauma that children may experience when separated from a parent. The Department agrees that contact visits between inmates and their children is a best practice that should continue in all correctional settings whenever possible.

However, the introduction of illegal contraband to correctional facilities in Hawaii and across the country is a serious problem that jeopardizes the safety, control, and good governance of the facility. The Department must place the safety and security of inmates and staff among its highest concerns. For this reason, PSD's correctional policies and procedures relative to visitation, authorize facilities to restrict contact visits by allowing visits with a glass pane between the inmate and visitor. This method has produced important results, reducing the trafficking of illegal contraband into the Oahu Community Correctional Center, Halawa Correctional Facility, and the Maui Community Correctional Center, via visits, to almost zero.

It is, therefore, critical for the Department to maintain its discretion to restrict contact visits and provide a range of options, including a designated non-contact visit area; contact visits through a glass pane; contact visits between incarcerated individuals and their children, under the custody of Child Protective Services (CPS); and contact visits between inmates and their terminally-ill family members.

PSD is also deeply concerned with the measure's requirement for two or more visits to be offered to each and every inmate at correctional facilities statewide, especially without the provision of additional funding for positions, facilities construction, and other resources. Despite taking aggressive steps to recruit staff, the Department continues to be short-staffed, and the facilities would be significantly overburdened by the requirement of an additional visit each week for every inmate. Moreover, current visitation areas require infrastructure expansion to accommodate the increased number of visitors per week. Such a policy would lead to substantially increased overtime and ultimately, unsettled conditions in the facilities and less stability for the staff.

The Department respectfully requests that SB 2349 be deferred for the reasons stated above. Instead, PSD reiterates its support for the passage of SB 2345 – Relating to Children and Family of Incarcerated Individuals, which seeks to establish a pilot visitation and family resource center at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF), as a manageable and sensible first step in creating a model visitation program that may be

replicated at other facilities. The Department was an active participant over the summer in a Department of Human Services (DHS)-led working group, collaborating with multiple community partners, as directed by HCR 205/SCR 7, passed in the 2019 Legislative session, to address this long standing and important social issue. PSD strongly supports the pilot project proposed for WCF, an outgrowth of the working group's efforts summarized in its Report to the 2020 Legislature:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Visiting-Centers-at-all-State-Correctional-Facilities.pdf>,

with the whole-hearted intent to expand similar visitation and family resource centers at correctional facilities statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

1:35 PM – Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2349 – CONTACT VISITATION AT ALL HAWAII FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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 families of **JAMES BORLING SALAS, ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE**, including the eleven (11) people that we know of, who have died in the last six (6) months. We also remind the committee of the approximately 5,200 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day, and we are always mindful that more than 1,200 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.

SB 2349 requires all state correctional facilities to allow family members to engage in contact visitation with inmates at any state correctional facility during official visiting hours. Provides that the correctional facility shall provide each inmate with the opportunity for a minimum of two in-person, contact visits per week, with each visit lasting at least one hour.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this important bill. This bill is part of the Keiki Caucus package that was voted on by the large group of community folks and organizations that are active advocates for Hawai'i's children.

The data and research show that keeping families and loved ones connected does reduce recidivism. Let's stop the intergenerational incarceration in Hawai'i noted by the Department of Justice when they came here in 1998. Of the eight jurisdictions they visited, they found that Hawai'i had more intergenerational incarceration than any other jurisdiction they visited.

Civil Beat¹ recently spoke with the Urban Institute about ways to improve jail and prison visits and learned that:

¹ Three Hawaii Correctional Facilities Ban Contact Visits Despite Potential Benefits, Studies suggest non-contact visits can be harmful for families, especially children, By Yoohyun Jung, Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/01/three-hawaii-correctional-facilities-ban-contact-visits-despite-potential-benefits/>

“In other jurisdictions, jails partner with community-based nonprofits. For instance, in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, nonprofit staff pat down children to check for contraband instead of jail staff, making it less intimidating.

Another example is Harris County, Texas, where the jail system is training volunteers as “ambassadors” in the lobby of the facility to help families navigate the visitation system and they’ve started offering books and coloring sheets in the lobby for children.

Prisons and jails could also host activities in the visitation rooms, such as worksheets, coloring books or providing the same book to both the incarcerated parent and children on the other side of the plexiglass, she said.

The physical environment could also be made more welcoming.

*However, at the end of the day, provided the families are ready, **contact visits still are the best option.**”*

Children of Incarcerated Parents, a Shared Sentence The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities

By the Annie E. Casey Foundation

April 18, 2016

<https://www.aecf.org/resources/a-shared-sentence/>

Children of incarcerated parents – like all children – need strong, supportive families and communities. Making smart investments in them, their families and the places where they live can help ensure they have solid support systems.

RECOMMENDATION 1: *Ensure children are supported while parents are incarcerated and after they return.*

RECOMMENDATION 2: *Connect parents who have returned to the community with pathways to employment.*

RECOMMENDATION 3: *Strengthen communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by incarceration and reentry, to promote family stability & opportunity.*

The confinement of a parent should not doom a child to a lifetime of closed doors. Our hopes and dreams for children of incarcerated parents should be no different from the limitless horizon we seek for all of our children. They too deserve a blank page in our nation’s great storybook – and the chance to shape their part of the tale as it continues to unfold for themselves, their future families and our whole country.

A key takeaway from a study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation was the number of children who have had a parent in jail or prison at some point in their childhood.

Key Parental Incarceration Takeaway

Children Who Have Experienced Parental Incarceration: 2011-2012

Nationally, the number of kids who have had a parent in jail or prison at some point in their childhood hovers around 5.1 million – a conservative estimate. Children with incarcerated

parents are significantly less likely to live in neighborhoods that are able to be supportive of families.

The chart at the end of this testimony shows that seven (7) percent of U.S. children have experienced parental incarceration. Among states, the percentage varies dramatically, from only 3% in New Jersey to 13% in Kentucky. Hawai'i's correctional facilities are disproportionately populated by Kanaka Maoli and the chart shows that 5% of our keiki have experienced parental incarceration, translating to 16,000 of our people experienced parental incarceration during their childhood.

The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism

https://mn.gov/doc/assets/11-11MNPrisonVisitationStudy_tcm1089-272781.pdf

Minnesota Department of Corrections (St. Paul, MN) 2011

Visitation has a significant effect on recidivism. "Any visit **reduced the risk of recidivism by 13 percent for felony reconvictions and 25 percent for technical violation revocations**, which reflects the fact that visitation generally had a greater impact on revocations. The findings further showed that more frequent and recent visits were associated with a decreased risk of recidivism" (p. 27).

Inmate Social Ties and the Transition to Society Does Visitation Reduce Recidivism?

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.865.9780&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

William D. Bales, Daniel P. Mears - Florida State University

...Consonant with the few extant empirical studies of the topic (e.g., Adams and Fischer 1976; Holt and Miller 1972; Ohlin 1951), **any visitation and more frequent visitation were both associated with a lower likelihood of recidivism.** Additional, more nuanced analyses conveyed similar findings, such as the notion that visitation over many different months exerts a greater effect than visits over fewer months. **Visitation was also associated with delaying the onset, or timing, of recidivism.**

Blessed Be the Social Tie That Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403411429724> - Grant Duwe and Valerie Clark, December 2011

...we found that **visitation significantly decreased the risk of recidivism**, a result that was robust across all of the Cox regression models that were estimated. The results also showed that visits from siblings, in-laws, fathers, and clergy were the most beneficial in reducing the risk of recidivism, whereas visits from ex-spouses significantly increased the risk. The findings suggest that revising prison visitation policies to make them more "visitor friendly" could yield public safety benefits by helping offenders establish a continuum of social support from prison to the community.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committees to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to share our research and to testify! Please see the following chart.

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:33:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorenn Walker	Testifying for Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice supports this bill to allow personal contact visits for incarcerated people. This kind of visitation has been shown to increase healing and desistance from crime.

PSD needs to allow these kinds of visits.

Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH

www.hawaiiifriends.org

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 5:54:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacquelyn Esser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an attorney I am allowed contact visitation with my clients. It is infuriating when I am able to sit in the visitation room and speak with clients (prisoners) face to face while watching a family with young children visit their father or mother behind a thick, dirty, plexiglass. Not only are we causing more trauma to prisoners but to the children and loved ones of prisoners.

Visitation with family and loved ones is critical to the emotional health of prisoners, as well as, to their children and loved ones. Prisoners' family links are important because positive, stable family relationships are directly linked to less re-offending. So greater support for family links could benefit all of society.

Also, level of prison violence has skyrocketed, and prison suicides are rising at an alarming rate. Research shows that more frequent family contact is associated with reduced prison misconduct. Greater support of family contact would also be good for the prison system as well as reintegration into the community.

This is about taking responsibility, protecting the sanctity of the family, and ensuring innocent children are not condemned to repeat the mistakes of their parents.

SB-2523 2349

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 3:57:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Contact visitation is so vital for all of us. We all have the need to be hugged by those whom we love.

There are invalid, children who are unable to speak with eyes only to communicate, who are wheeled in to see their parent but being in a semi-prone position can barely see their parent behind the glass window. The mouth piece does not project well so can't hear the voice of their parent either.

Parents who are not well whose visit may be the last visit, cannot touch their child. It is a sad situation.

All the visitors want is to have contact visitation, nothing extra special, just a touch of their loved ones.

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:11:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 3:38:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Tilley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear committee,

I strongly support contact visits. We all know everyone needs human contact. You don't have to read every study done on the topic to know it's important. We not only punish the inmate but we punish the loved ones who come to the visits to show there love and support. We have done a terrible mistake by taking away the contact visit which is so critical to the mental well being of the inmate. We need to be proactive and restore contact visits.

Sincerely, Cathy Tilley

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:25:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

ROBERT K. MERCER
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

phone: (808) 398-9594 (cell)
email: mercer001@hawaii.rr.com

February 10, 2020

TO: Senate Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
RE: SB 2349
HEARING: February 11, 2020
TIME: 1:35 p.m.
ROOM: 229
POSITON: **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee:

My name is Bob Mercer. I am a retired lawyer and recently served as vice chair of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on prison reform.

I strongly support SB 2349 which would make contact visitation the policy and practice at all state correctional facilities.

In 2013 legal scholars Chesa Boudin, Trevor Stutz, and Aaron Littman reviewed the empirical evidence on contact prison visitation and found that “frequent, high quality visitation can reduce prison violence, maintain family bonds, break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration, and smooth the reentry process.”¹

They reported, for example, that a study by the Minnesota Department of Corrections found that prisoners who received visits while incarcerated were substantially less likely to recidivate. Tracking over sixteen thousand prisoners released from Minnesota prisons between 2003 and 2007, the study showed that, when controlling for numerous other factors, prisoners who received visits were thirteen percent less likely to be reconvicted of a felony after release and twenty-five percent less likely to have their probation or parole revoked.²

A separate study, conducted by the Ohio Department of Corrections, concluded that visitation had a positive impact on prisoner behavior and prison safety. The Ohio study found a statistically significant relationship between increased visitation and decreased

¹ Chesa Boudin, Trevor Stutz, and Aaron Littman, *Prison Visitation Policies, A 50-State Survey*, 1 Yale Law & Policy Review, Article Five (2013). Accessed February 9, 2020
https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/center/liman/document/prison_visitation_policies.pdf

² See Grant Duwe & Valerie Clark, Blessed Be the Social Tie that Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism, 24 CRIM. JUST. POL'Y REV. 271, 277 (2013).

ROBERT K. MERCER

2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

phone: (808) 398-9594 (cell)
email: mercer001@hawaii.rr.com

rule infractions, with even one visit found to have a positive correlation, and visits from parents or guardians found to be particularly significant.³

Contact visits are particularly important for children because they help mitigate the trauma of losing a parent to incarceration which is associated with the potential for lasting effects such as risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, antisocial behavior and poor school performance.⁴

In Norway, which has the world's lowest recidivism rate⁵ family visits are encouraged and prisoners are able to spend time with their partners and children. Contact visits are allowed for two hours, twice a week.⁶ At Halden Prison, which I had the opportunity to visit in 2015, private visits take place in small, comfortable, and brightly decorated rooms that have toys and baby changing facilities.

Halden prison also has a house on the prison grounds where families can spend 24 hours together. The house has a kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a large living room with a dining table, sofa, and television, as well as an outdoor area with toys for children.

Contact visits are a best practice and should be allow at all correctional facilities. Enforcing reasonable and constitutionally permissible regulations can prevent the introduction of contraband into the prison.

I urge you to pass SB 2349.

³ See Gary C. Mohr, An Overview of Research Findings in the Visitation, Offender Behavior Connection, OHIO DEP'T OF REHAB. & CORR. (2012),

⁴ Lindsey Cramer, Margaret Goff, Bryce Peterson and Heather Sandstrom, "Parent-Child Visiting Practices in Prisons and Jails, A synthesis of Research and Practice," Urban Institute, April 2017. Accessed February 9, 2020 <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/89601/parent-child-visiting-practices-in-prisons-and-jails.pdf>

⁵ Encartele, Scandinavian Jails: Why Is Their Recidivism Rate So Much Better, April 18, 2017. Accessed February 9, 2020 <https://www.encartele.net/2018/04/what-can-us-correctional-facilities-learn-from-scandinavian-jails/>

⁶ Lorraine Atkinson, Norway Embraces Family Visits for Children, May 7, 2014. Accessed February 9, 2020, <https://www.barrowcadbury.org.uk/voices/norway-embraces-family-visits-for-prisoners/>

ROBERT K. MERCE
2467 Aha Aina Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

phone: (808) 398-9594 (cell)
email: mercer001@hawaii.rr.com

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

Testimony of Bree Forbes in Support of S.B. 2349

Relating to Criminal Justice

Aloha, my name is Bree Forbes and I am in strong support of S.B. 2349. My husband has been incarcerated for a little over a year and a half serving a statutory 20-year sentence. We have three young children ages 4, 6, and 8.

Through this unfortunate situation, there have been many hardships and stressors that have fallen upon me, now a single mother of three. The worst of it however is the impact it has had on our children. My husband had a wonderful relationship with our kids which is now essentially lost. The kids and I have participated in visitation at OCCC and Halawa, both which are no-contact facilities.

The conditions at OCCC are terrible- broken chairs, stuffy and cramped visitation cubicles, and guards who swear constantly with no regard for the children in the room. Scheduling can be a nightmare. There were days I called over 20 times and still was unable to get through. I could only bring one child at a time, which meant I had to find childcare for our other two kids. This also meant my kids only saw their dad about once a month, which is not nearly enough. Halawa was not as bad, guards were more respectful, however the visit room was hot and loud with all the people talking over one another. I could bring my youngest child with only one of my other kids, so I still needed childcare.

Visitation is tough on young children. There's no activities and no way too keep them entertained. To be honest I started to dread visitation because the kids had such a hard time. My husband was moved to Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona late last year, and now we have no visitation, other than 15 minutes of video once a month. Although Saguaro does allow contact visits, I cannot afford to fly myself and my kids there to see him.

Children need physical contact, and positive means of interaction. Something as simple as a book or board game to play during visits. How can anyone expect a young child to sit still and converse with their incarcerated parent who is behind plexiglass? Just as I began to dread the visits, so did they. It's heartbreaking to watch as their bond with their father continues to deteriorate. He's becoming a stranger to them.

I truly believe that contact visits would have helped my kids cope better with their father being in prison as well as helped them to maintain a connection with him. My son recently said to me, "Mom, I haven't been able to hug Daddy in soooo long, when is he coming home?" During visitation my youngest would climb up on the table, stand on her tippy toes and reach up the glass as far as she could to see if she could touch his fingers. Of course this wasn't possible, but this showed me just how badly she wanted to be close to him and not have this barrier between them.

I'd like to offer this suggestion that I hope you will take into consideration. I think it's important that DPS also be required to provide a visitation space that is family friendly- clean, comfortable, and make available appropriate activities that parents and kids can engage in with each other (books, cards, board games, drawing material, etc.). Jails and prisons are already an intimidating place, especially for children.

I am so grateful to this committee for hearing this measure and I'm hopeful that we can make some changes in this system. Let's not forget about the families, the children that are also impacted by

incarceration. We are really going through a tough time and could use some support, as of now, it doesn't seem as though we get any. I respectfully ask that you think of all the kids who are confused, scared, and essentially dealing with a loss and please pass S.B. 2349.

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:06:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R Siciliano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:15:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2349. The bill is based on research and vetted by Hawai'i families. Contact during visits is crucial and sitting in a kiosk behind glass is not a visit. Research and data show the importance of connection and touch for humans. Please restore humanity and health to our Hawaii families.

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:31:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of SB 2349 that requires all state correctional facilities to allow family members to engage in contact visitation with inmates at any state correctional facility during official visiting hours.

The Department of Public Safety has repeatedly provided their rationale for non-contact visits. Evidence based research, however, confirms that the potential gains are far outweighed by the costs of eliminating contact visits.

For example, the Vera Institute of Justice's research found that "in-person visits increases outcomes both pre- and post-release." In addition, the Criminal Justice Policy Review demonstrates that in-person visits decrease recidivism.

In an effort to decrease recidivism and to give meaning to our professed family/'ohana values in Hawai'i, we should be moving toward more human contact, not less.

Eliminating contact visits is cruel and unusual punishment against individuals serving their time and against their families and loved ones - who have not been charged, nor convicted of any crimes.

Please pass SB2349 and reinstate contact visitation as a reflection of our professed values and as a matter of human dignity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

SB-2349

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:38:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2020 1:35:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB2349.

Empirical research and data show the importance of connection AND touch for humans. The department has already eliminated contact visits at OCCC, Halawa, and MCCC.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson RN