

JAN 24 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ADOPT POLICIES TO
PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF INCARCERATED PARENTS OF MINOR
CHILDREN TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES ON THE MAINLAND.

1 WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the number of incarcerated
2 parents in the United States grew by approximately fifty-nine
3 per cent; and
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5 WHEREAS, currently, there is no means of determining the
6 exact number of incarcerated individuals with minor children in
7 Hawaii as no procedure is in place for collecting such data; and
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9 WHEREAS, it is estimated, however, that there are
10 approximately 3,163 parents of 6,665 children in Hawaii's prison
11 system; and
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13 WHEREAS, approximately half of Hawaii's incarcerated felons
14 are sent to private correctional facilities on the mainland
15 making it difficult for them to maintain contact with their
16 families; and
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18 WHEREAS, an increased focus needs to be placed on the
19 children of incarcerated parents to maintain a parent-child
20 bond; and
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22 WHEREAS, studies indicate that the children of incarcerated
23 individuals suffer from a multitude of negative consequences,
24 including possible displacement from their home and separation
25 from their primary or secondary caregiver; and
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27 WHEREAS, as a result, these children experience strong
28 emotional reactions to the incarceration and disruption in their
29 home life, leading to a significant increase, up to six times
30 more likely, of becoming involved in the criminal justice system
31 themselves; and
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1 WHEREAS, state policies contribute to the breakdown of the
2 family by failing to facilitate the continued relationship
3 between incarcerated individuals and their children when the
4 relationship is in the best interests of the child; and

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6 WHEREAS, denial of visitation is a means of punishment or
7 discipline of the incarcerated individuals, but those who truly
8 suffer are the children; and

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10 WHEREAS, the strengthening of family relationships has a
11 positive effect on recidivism as studies have shown it lessens
12 the possibility of future incarceration after an inmate's
13 release from a correctional facility; and

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15 WHEREAS, studies have also shown that therapeutic
16 involvement with families during incarceration builds better and
17 stronger relationships between the incarcerated parent's
18 children and the incarcerated parent once the parent is
19 released; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety should adopt
22 policies to prevent the transfer of Hawaii's incarcerated
23 parents of minor children to correctional facilities on the
24 mainland; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
29 Public Safety is requested to adopt policies to prevent the
30 transfer of Hawaii's incarcerated parents of minor children to
31 correctional facilities on the mainland; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim Director of
35 Public Safety.

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