JAN 1 7 2014

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 the growing prison
- 2 population has raised serious concerns regarding the collateral
- 3 effects of incarceration on children, families, and communities.
- 4 According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics' most
- 5 recent study on incarcerated parents in the United States, more
- 6 than 1,700,000 minors, representing 2.3 per cent of the
- 7 population, have at least one incarcerated parent.
- 8 The legislature further finds that the incarceration of a
- 9 parent is a traumatic event for children. Studies show that a
- 10 substantial number of incarcerated parents were deeply involved
- 11 in their children's lives before imprisonment by providing daily
- 12 care, as well as financial and emotional support. Studies also
- 13 show that the incarceration of a parent is likely to result in
- 14 unstable family relationships, poor academic performance,
- 15 financial instability, material hardship, and social stigma.
- 16 Providing social services and programs for children who
- 17 have a parent in the prison system supports the children's
- 18 emotional and behavioral well-being. Furthermore, providing 2014-0381 SB SMA.doc



- 1 support to incarcerated parents and their children preserves and
- 2 strengthens family connections, which yield positive societal
- 3 benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, less
- 4 intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and
- 5 improved healthy child development.
- 6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funding for
- 7 programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and
- 8 to help in family reunification.
- 9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
- 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
- 12 funding programs and services for children of incarcerated
- 13 parents and assisting with family reunification.
- 14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
- 15 public safety for the purposes of this Act.
- 16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Rung de Bal

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2014-0381 SB SMA.doc

S.B. NO. 2308

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.

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