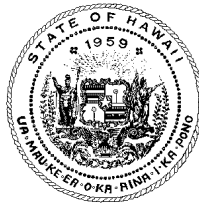


# SB 913

Measure Title:	RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.
Report Title:	Public Safety; Incarcerated Parent Data
Description:	Requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.
Companion:	<a href="#">HB998</a>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HSH/PSM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, ESPERO, GALUTERIA, KEITH-AGARAN

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STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 913  
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 1:30PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero, Vice Chairs Green and Baker, and Committee Members:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 913 which would require the PSD to collect data relating to the number of offenders entering the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have under the age of eighteen. The PSD has long recognized that family reunification could have a positive impact in the child's developmental process, as well as lowering the recidivism outcome for offenders.

Working collaboratively with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the PSD is conducting a pilot project during the month of February 2015, surveying offenders admitted into the community correctional facilities. Due to limitations of staffing and capturing the data electronically, this project is able to collect only the very basic information that is specified in this bill, and only on a self-report basis. The data collected from this project could be used to obtain estimates of the offender population with minor children and the resources which will be needed to continue the data collection and possibly expand the survey questions.

The PSD plans to work with OHA and other community partners and release the results of the pilot project in March 2015. It should be noted that without funding, the PSD would not be able to expand on the data being collected, provide staff training to ensure that questions asked are reliable and the responses recorded accurately, enhance statistical analysis, or initiate verification of the responses provided by the offender.

Senate Bill 433, which also requires the PSD to capture parental information at intake, is pending review by the Committee on Ways and Means. The PSD notes that SB 433 is more specific in identifying the data collection responsibilities and may have funding potential for future program expansion.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Date:** 02/26/2015

**Time:** 01:30 PM

**Location:** 016

**Committee:** Senate Human Services and  
Housing Senate Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

**Department:** Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0913 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) would like to provide comment on S.B. No. 0913.

Many factors outside of the classroom affect student performance, and the challenges associated with having an incarcerated parent create significant educational risk for a student. HIDOE currently uses student outcomes data to identify and target students who are at risk of falling behind academically, and additional information from the Public Safety Division would significantly augment these efforts.



### SB913

#### RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

February 26, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB913. **OHA collaborated with community groups and interested stakeholders to proffer a very similar version of this bill, which takes a long-awaited first step towards identifying and addressing the unique needs of Hawai'i's keiki with incarcerated parents, by requiring the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to the children of prisoners.**

A growing body of national research demonstrates that children whose parents are incarcerated may experience great trauma as a result of their parents' incarceration. For example, such children may face separation from their families, displacement from their homes, social stigmas, emotional isolation, and a lack of financial and other resources. Consequently, children with incarcerated parents often suffer from emotional distress, developmental challenges, poor academic performance, aggressive behavior, and truancy. These children are three times more likely to suffer from depression or behavioral problems and twice as likely to suffer from learning disabilities and anxiety than the average American child.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, in the long-term, these children may also be much more likely to enter the criminal justice system themselves.

Addressing the unique needs of children with incarcerated parents is of particular concern to the Native Hawaiian community. In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. This report found that Native Hawaiians comprise 39 percent of the adult incarcerated population, while they account for just 24 percent of the general population.<sup>2</sup> Native Hawaiians are also more likely to have children in their households than other state households.<sup>3</sup> Such data strongly indicate that Native Hawaiian children may be most greatly impacted by parental incarceration; therefore, understanding and addressing the needs of this very vulnerable population is a key concern within the

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<sup>1</sup> Kristin Turney, *Stress Proliferation Across Generations? Examining the Relationship Between Parental Incarceration and Childhood Health*, JOURNAL OF HEALTH AND SOC. BEHAVIOR, vol. 55 no. 3 (2014).

<sup>2</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 36 (2010), [http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir\\_final\\_web\\_rev.pdf](http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir_final_web_rev.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS DATA BOOK, Table 1.31 (2013), <http://www.ohadatabook.com/T01-31-13.pdf>.

Hawaiian community. The Native Hawaiian Criminal Justice Task Force noted this concern in its 2012 report, recommending that state agencies involved with the criminal justice system better collect and integrate data on incarcerated individuals and that resources specifically be directed toward children of incarcerated parents to reduce intergenerational incarceration.<sup>4</sup>

Unfortunately, to date, no process exists in Hawai'i to systematically collect information on these children to identify and address their unique needs. Previously, in 2006 and again in 2008, a legislatively-created task force identified a lack of data as a major roadblock to the provision of programs and services supporting children of incarcerated parents. Thus far, nothing has been done to address this concern. As a result, Hawai'i lacks even basic data on the number and needs of Hawai'i's keiki with incarcerated parents.

SB913 revives the decade-long effort to better understand the number and unique needs of children of incarcerated parents. The systematic data collection required under this bill is an essential first step in establishing a comprehensive body of data to support the development of programs and services for the children of incarcerated parents, helping our most vulnerable keiki adjust and thrive and reducing the long-term consequences of their unaddressed needs.

OHA believes this bill could be strengthened further by requiring the Department of Public Safety to collect relevant data in addition to the number of incarcerated parents, and the number of children per incarcerated parent. OHA therefore recommends adding an additional subsection (3) to page 3, line 7, to read as follows:

“(3) Any other information about incarcerated parents and their children that the department deems useful to facilitate the provision of services to incarcerated parents or their children.”

Such an amendment will enable the Department of Public Safety to continue working with the community of service-providers, families, and interested stakeholders to collect more comprehensive demographic data as needs are better understood and as resources may allow.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the committees to **pass** SB913 with amendments. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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<sup>4</sup> 2012 NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REP. sec.A, at 27, sec. C, at 28, <http://www.oha.org/nativehawaiianjusticetaskforce>.

TESTIMONY ON SB 913 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY BEFORE THE SENATE  
COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 26, 2015

1:30 pm

Conference Rm. 016

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero, Vice-Chairs, Green and Baker, and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SB 913 Relating to Public Safety.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for seven Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. The several varied risk factors in the families, including homelessness or unstable housing, unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, chronic health problems, and physical disabilities. Two years ago, after much research and analysis, BFC determined that one of the increasing risk factors for child neglect in the families we serve is that there is at least one parent who is incarcerated.

An estimated 2.7 million children nationwide have at least one parent that is incarcerated, and studies conducted by the National Fatherhood Initiative show that in terms of negative impacts on children, incarceration may be worse than the death of a parent or the divorce of parents. Even more disheartening is the evidence that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become incarcerated themselves as teenagers or adults, thus continuing the “cycle of incarceration” that sadly becomes generational in some families.

Three other statistics from the 2008 Bureau of Judicial Statistics Report also reveal the alarming extent of this problem. First, parents of minor children held in the nation’s prisons increased by 79% between 1991 and mid-2007. Second, more than a third of minor children will reach the age of 18 while their parents are incarcerated. And, third, incarcerated parents of minor children are most likely to be between the ages of 24 to 35.

These statistics have not gone unnoticed by children and family serving organizations in Hawaii who have developed mentoring and other types of social services aimed at assisting these children. However, there continues to be major gaps in services for these children, because funding for programs aimed at helping them has never been established as a priority. A major reason why this issue is not a funding priority in Hawaii is that service providers have not had the data to justify the extent of the problem in Hawaii. This is especially true for service providers who are trying to access federal funding that is programmed to assist children and families and break the cycle of incarceration.

The reason service providers don’t have this data is because it is not being collected by the State.

In January 2014, the Legislative Keiki Caucus, at the request of BFC and the Hawaii Prisoners Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, established a working group to explore the issues surrounding children and families impacted by incarceration. Called the Family Reunification Working Group (FRWG), the group is comprised of representatives from several organizations

and service providers, including Blueprint for Change, Hawaii Prisoners Resource Center, dba Holomua Center, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, ALU LIKE, Inc., Queen Lili`uokalani Children's Center, Keiki O Ka Aina Learning Centers, Family Programs Hawaii, Adult Friends for Youth, Community Alliance on Prisons, TJ Mahoney, Chaminade University's Native Hawaiian Program, Hawaii Technology Institute, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery, and Makana O Ke Akua Clean and Sober Living. It also included parents of children who have been affected by incarceration. The group established two immediate priorities to work on, one of which was to develop a database of children in Hawaii impacted by incarceration, and during the past year, it explored various ways to collect the data needed to identify the number and basic demographics of these children. After much discussion and analysis, it concluded that the fastest and easiest way to collect the essential data needed was to add at least one, two-part question to the current form now used by the Hawaii Department of Public Safety's Corrections Division to intake offenders entering the Hawaii corrections system.

Our working group stands ready to work with the Department in any way we can to help collect this data.

Mahalo for allowing us to share this testimony with the Committees.



## Adult Friends for Youth

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Submitted to

Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Submitted by

Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun  
President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth  
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am in support of SB 913, which relates to the Department of Public Safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.

For the past 27 years I have worked in communities that have multiple economic challenges coupled with high rates of crimes and violence. Often times many of the youth we work with come from families where one or both parents are incarcerated and/or other family members such as siblings and cousins. In either case, incarceration impacts the youth at some level eventually leaving the youth to believe that it is a norm. It isn't and it shouldn't be. In order to break this vicious cycle services need to be provided at many levels. However, often times funding are not accessible because the data is not available.

It seems logical that the best place to acquire this information is upon entry to the correctional facilities of the Department of Public Safety because they have the targeted population that have the answers which are the offenders.

As a community worker and a member of the Family Reunification working group, I ask that you move this bill forward so we can begin to get the much needed data to help service all children and youth of incarcerated parents. Mahalo for your time.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC)

Testimony of  
Leimana DaMate, Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Thursday, February 26, 2015  
1:30 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In **SUPPORT** of  
Senate Bill 913  
**Relating to Public Safety**

Senate Bill 9143 requires that the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.

The Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational resource knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 43 moku and more than 500 ahupua'a. This knowledge is handed down generation to generation by experts in site-specific resource methodology. However, in the past decades the percentage of Native Hawaiians who have been incarcerated has risen. Tragically, a new trend of gaps in the generational knowledge of resource methodology can and probably does occur when the children of incarcerated parents are not given the opportunity to learn traditional practices because one or more of their parents are incarcerated.

We believe that Native Hawaiian children are impacted by the trauma of having parents sent to prison. This bill begins the necessary process of identifying and addressing the needs of children with incarcerated parents by requiring the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children.

**We strongly support SB 913 and urge this committee to pass this bill.**

Mahalo nui loa.



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

### **SB913 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **SENATE COMMITTEES HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, 2/26/15; 1:30 pm; Room 016

Aloha Chairman Oakland of the Senate Human Services and Housing Committee, and Chairman Espero of the Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee and members of the joint committees meeting on SB913 Relating to Public Safety. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) supports this bill that will begin to collect intake data on parents in prison and their children.

The AHCC is comprised of sixty seven component clubs throughout Hawaii and sixteen states on the continent. The first club was founded in 1918 by Delegate to Congress Prince Kuhio as a means to advocate on issues impacting the native Hawaiian people. Ninety five years later there are still issues of concern that require the attention of the AHCC.

A study and report by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs two years ago revealed an inordinate number of incarcerated Hawaiians. While the report was informative, there was little known of the children whose parents are in prison. The collection of data at the intake point would not only identify the children but their needs, that could lead to the provision of programs and services.

The children are innocent victims who should not be included in the punishment of crimes committed by their parents because of uncertainty. A first step toward setting things to right for the children is their identification and collection of relevant data, the second is the provision of needed services and support for them. Thank you for the opportunity to support SB913 and we urge its passage.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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## COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Room 016

## **SUPPORT for SB 913 - Data Collection on Children of Incarcerated Parents**

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies for almost two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 5,600 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars, always mindful that more than 1,600, and soon to be rising number of Hawai'i individuals who are serving their sentences abroad, thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Native Hawaiians, far from their ancestral lands.

SB 913 requires the department of public safety to collect data relating to the number of incoming offenders into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of children they have that are under the age of eighteen.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure.

Data show that children with at least one incarcerated parent are six to seven times more likely to be incarcerated themselves than other children. This is a clarion call to pay attention to the needs of these children.

To date, Hawai'i has no data and who these children are and where they reside. The Angel Tree, a group that provides Christmas gifts to these children, has been the state's only source for data on these children, but it is not an official number.

Hsh-<sup>sm</sup> Restimony in Inserting a few lines on the intake service form is at least a start to determine just how many children/youth under 18 years old are impacted by parental incarceration. We *can* stop the flow of intergenerational incarceration when we stop ignoring the fact that every incarcerated person comes from a family, and the families suffer from incarceration as well as the imprisoned person.

An article from December 2014<sup>1</sup> cites much of the current thinking on the issue of children with incarcerated parents:

“Even for kids at high risk of problems, parental incarceration makes a bad situation worse,” concluded Christopher Wildeman and Sara Wakefield in their recently published book, Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality.

Wildeman and Wakefield found that children with incarcerated fathers were **three times more likely** than peers from similar backgrounds **to become homeless**. They also suffered significantly **higher rates of behavioral and mental-health problems, most notably aggression**.

Kristin Turney, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Irvine, reached similar conclusions in a report published this past September. Turney found that children with incarcerated parents were **three times more likely to suffer from depression or behavioral problems** than the average American child, and **twice as likely to suffer from learning disabilities and anxiety**.

Within the last few years, however, a broad range of agencies and policy-makers have begun to frame the nation’s prison boom as a children’s issue. Last summer, the Justice Department launched a wide-reaching campaign to provide support to the children of imprisoned parents – by rethinking visitation policies and changing the protocol for arresting parents in front of children, for example. In August, the American Bar Foundation and the National Science Foundation invited key researchers, advocates and federal officials to the White House for a conference to discuss reducing the “collateral costs” to children and communities when parents are incarcerated. The conference was part of a larger inter-agency initiative begun in 2012 to focus the attention of participating agencies, including the Department of Education, on the children of incarcerated parents. A few months later, in November, the Federal Bureau of Prisons hosted its first-ever Universal Children’s Day, an event attended by nearly 8,500 children visiting more than 4,000 federal inmates.

Children’s television has provided a pop-culture barometer of the issue’s increased prominence. Last summer, Sesame Street introduced Alex, a blue-haired Muppet whose father is in jail. “I don’t like to talk about it,” Alex told his furry friends, describing his emotions. “Most people don’t understand. I just miss him so much. It just hurts inside.... But then sometimes I feel like I just want to pound on a pillow and scream as loud as I can.”

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<sup>1</sup> Mass Incarceration’s Collateral Damage: The Children Left Behind, Katy Reckdahl, December 16, 2014. <http://www.thenation.com/article/193121/mass-incarcerations-collateral-damage-children-left-behind#>

As you can see, this issue is finally gaining national prominence.

The Alliance for Children conducted research on the costs of incarcerating parents<sup>2</sup>, below is some of their conclusions:

“The extent of the costs implicated in incarcerating parents is hidden from view because, like some diseases, these costs hide in many corners of the body politic and they reemerge at different times after the initial crisis. The full inventory of both costs and benefits is probably more robust than what we have inventoried here.

(...)

The shape of the equation for society is nevertheless clear. **Incarceration is an immensely costly form of social control.** We can now appreciate that these costs do not devolve primarily on the punished person, even when the value of their loss of freedom (i.e., quality of life) is considered. Instead, about **four-tenths (40%) the total social cost of placing a parent behind bars is the public’s loss**, while the losses borne directly by the offender are considerably smaller (26%). ...”

The findings by Lengyel and Brown in a follow up study 2009<sup>3</sup> produced a set of recommendations for corrections policy and judicial practice in Hawai’i, several of which have been advanced in prior studies (Lengyel and Harris 2003; Lengyel 2006).

***Finding:***

**The cost of incarcerating drug offenders greatly exceeds the corresponding social benefit.**

*Recommendations:*

- o Practice selective non-incarceration. Shift from incarceration to community supervision and support for certain classes of inmates who are now facing sentencing or serving time.
- o Savings from prisoner diversion should be invested in programs that delay or forestall incarceration, such as drug abuse treatment and education, job training, and economic opportunity.

***Finding:***

**Families, grandparents, and relatives bear the greatest share of costs imposed by the incarceration of a parent. They seldom have adequate resources to fulfill the role they play in the lives of the parent and the parent’s children.**

*Recommendations:*

- o Initiate supports for partners, grandparents, and relative caregivers of children with parents in prison, including respite care, housing assistance, parenting support, and material support.

***Finding:***

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<sup>2</sup> *Spreading the Pain: The Social Cost of Incarcerating Parents*, Thomas E. Lengyel, Department of Research & Evaluation Services, Alliance for Children and Families, September 2006.

<http://www.alliance1.org/pubs/archive/Incarceration%20%2526%20Corrections/spreading-the-pain-parents>

<sup>3</sup> *Everyone Pays: A Social Cost Analysis of Incarcerating Parents for Drug Offenses in Hawai’i*, Executive Summary, Thomas E. Lengyel and Marilyn Brown, August 2009

**Substance abuse treatment services are an appropriate alternative for the majority of drug offenders, but these services are grossly inadequate in prison and fall far short of the need in the community.**

*Recommendations:*

- o Provide appropriate substance abuse treatment on demand both in the community and in prison.

*Finding:*

**Hawai'i lacks accurate knowledge of its parent-prisoners and their children.**

*Recommendations:*

- o Keep demographic information on all children, on custody (legal and informal), on care giving arrangements, and on services needed or anticipated.
- o Integrate family information into the Department of Public Safety central databank on prisoners on a regular basis.

*Finding:*

**Placement on the mainland, based on administrative considerations, forecloses the possibility of visits and imposes stiff costs on families attempting to stay connected.**

*Recommendations:*

- o The Department of Public Safety should factor in the ability to maintain parent-child contact when making prison placements.
- o Parent inmates should be placed on the basis of "the best interest of the family."

*Finding:*

**The social costs of incarceration are largely hidden from public view, and remain unacknowledged by the courts when they dispense justice.**

*Recommendations:*

- o All presentence investigations that recommend incarceration should include an estimate of the social costs of the recommended term based on the parameters documented in this study, as well as the cost of the best reasonable alternative. Judges should explicitly incorporate these estimates in their sentencing decisions, and should acknowledge in court the weight given to them

In 2009, the federal government issues an action plan<sup>4</sup> for addressing this issue.

1. Support a review of law enforcement policies related to arrests of individuals whose children (or children under their care) are present at the time they are taken into custody, and individuals whose children may return home and be unattended because of their arrest.

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<sup>4</sup> Children of Incarcerated Parents: *An Action Plan for Federal Policymakers*, Jessica Nickel, Crystal Garland, Leah Kane, Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2009.

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/publications/children-of-incarcerated-parents-an-action-plan-for-federal-policymakers/>

2. Encourage the development of policy standards at the local or state level in cooperation with law enforcement on the response to the arrest of a caretaker parent or guardian of a minor child to ensure the child's safety and well-being.
3. Collect and disseminate program and policy examples from law enforcement agencies who have adopted promising approaches to unforeseen contact with children of incarcerated parents.
4. Share widely best practices on developing formal partnerships among law enforcement, child welfare agencies, and other providers to coordinate services for children of arrested parents.
5. Develop systems to collect data on the number and percentage of (1) arrestees who are custodial parents, and (2) children present at the time of arrest or who were left unattended because of the arrest, to document the breadth of the problem and understand the circumstances that lead to such arrests.
6. Support the implementation of training and protocols to minimize as much as possible the trauma to a child who is present during an arrest and sensitize arresting officers to the potential long-term impact.
7. Encourage local jurisdictions to adopt identified best practices for improving responses to children who are present during a parent's arrest.
8. Conduct additional research on the impact of parental arrest when a child is present, including the effects of home raids on children and the success of existing protocols and training tools to minimize risk.

Community Alliance on Prisons is heartened that there is a national recognition of the collateral consequences of incarceration. The social costs, as analyzed by these Hawai'i studies and numerous national studies, make it very clear that we are headed down the wrong path if we continue to pass punitive laws that incarcerate those folks we are frustrated with.

Incarceration should be the LAST RESORT. **It has been our experience that most incarcerated parents want to maintain relationships with their children.**

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



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FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Housing

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

HEARING: Thursday, February 26, 2015  
1:30 pm  
Conference Room 16

FROM: Judith Wilhoite  
Family Advocate  
It Takes An `Ohana

RE: SB 913 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's *It Takes An `Ohana* (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver. I, along with my ITAO Advisory Committee, strongly support SB 913.

Many of our foster children's parents are incarcerated, deeply impacting the lives of these children. Some of the best research on the lifelong effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on children comes from the CDC-Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study<sup>1</sup>, a groundbreaking public health study. One of the ACEs looked at in this study is having a parent in prison.

ACEs normally do not occur in isolation and that is certainly true with our foster children. People have an ACE score of 0 to 10. Each type of trauma counts as one, no matter how many times it occurs. People with high ACE scores are more likely to be violent, to have more broken bones, more drug prescriptions, more depression, and more autoimmune diseases.

As resource caregivers, we see firsthand how challenging it can be for the biological parents of the children in our care to reestablish themselves in society and to re-establish healthy relationships with their family. Our understanding is that with the right set of data, organizations such as *Blueprint for Change* will be able to apply for federal funds to help imprisoned parents have a better chance of a successful transition to life on the outside and with family. When that happens, **we all benefit**, especially foster children who may then be able to return to biological parents who are better equipped to parent them in healthy, appropriate ways.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 913 to help begin the process of bringing much needed resources to our families impacted by incarceration!

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<sup>1</sup> Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults, <http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797%2898%2900017-8/fulltext>



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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting SB 913 Relating to Incarcerated Parents  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Scheduled for Hearing Thursday, February 26, 2015, 1:30 PM, Room 016

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit law firm created to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals and families in Hawai'i on legal and policy issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients access to the resources and fair treatment they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.*

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 913, which would require the Department of Public Safety, through its prisoner intake centers, to collect or coordinate the collection of data regarding incarcerated parents and their children.

Children with at least one incarcerated parent may experience substantial trauma and as a result, they are at a dramatically increased risk of incarceration themselves. Yet there is no comprehensive and reliable source of data on these children in Hawai'i, limiting the state and service providers' ability to support these vulnerable children and their families. Appropriate services and resources are essential to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration and help these children overcome the hardships associated with an incarcerated parent. We also note that Native Hawaiian children may be more likely to experience such trauma due to Native Hawaiians' disproportionate contact with the criminal justice system.

Again, thank you for an opportunity to testify in support of SB 913. We strongly urge you to take this simple measure to help our state better meet the needs of children with incarcerated parents and help them thrive.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Daryl Selman, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
Aloha House  
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Courage House Hawaii  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Programs Hawaii  
Family Support Hawaii  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Hawaii Behavioral Health  
Hawaii Student Television  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition  
Hina Mauka Teen Care  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Kaanalike  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihi Valley  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
REAL  
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.  
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.  
Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
Susannah Wesley Community Center  
The Catalyst Group  
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii  
Waikiki Health Center  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Kauai

February 23, 2015

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Will Espero Chair  
And members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and  
Military Affairs

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 913 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 913 Relating to Public Safety.

Children of incarcerated parents experience grief and loss, similar to the experience of divorce or the death of a parent. Children of incarcerated parents are at increased risk of abuse or neglect, and more likely to have mental health problems, and difficulty in school. Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to enter the juvenile or adult correctional systems themselves.

Prisoners who have regular contact with their children are less likely to violate prison rules and create trouble for prison authorities. They are more likely to take advantage of rehabilitation and educational opportunities while in prison. Regular contact with children increases the chances of successful reintegration into the community when a parent is released from prison.

There is currently no method or system in which to track incarcerated parents and their children. This measure would provide a foundation to develop future informed policy that is needed to support opportunities to sustain the parent-child bond while a parent is incarcerated.

Hawaii Youth Services Network believes that children and their incarcerated parents will benefit from the data collection and future programs it will inform that support parents and children in Hawaii's prisons.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club	Comments Only	No

Comments: Support SB913. Statistical information on incarcerated parents and their children will help support long-term access to grant funding for programs and services, especially to the children of incarcerated parents.

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	King Kamehameha HCC	Support	No

Comments:

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# THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE HAWAII

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Dr. Ha'aheo Guanson  
*Chair*

February 23, 2015

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Honorable Senator Will Espero  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 206  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Testimony on Behalf of  
Senate Bill 913

## RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

To the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the  
Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing and  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Hearing on February 26, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Oakland, Senator Green, Senator Espero, Senator Baker, and Members of the  
Committees,

Aloha mai kākou.

The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i supports Senate Bill 913.

As the successor to the Hawai'i Council of Churches that was founded in 1927, The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i has been active in seeking social justice for all persons and especially for the families of those imprisoned as well as prisoners. The United States of America – "land of the free" – has one of the world's highest rates of per capita incarceration. How sad and ironic.

Facing the issue of overwhelming imprisonment of large segments of the under-privileged population is where state and church each hold a place in our social fabric and must do all in their power to provide for the children of incarcerated parents.

At present, there is no means of counting the population of those affected and this measure would allow the State to establish a baseline and develop a sense of the scope of the problem. We have been advised that, in Hawaii, this affects approximately 6,000 children.

Studies have shown that children with incarcerated fathers were three times more likely than peers from similar backgrounds to become homeless. They also suffered significantly higher rates of behavioral and mental-health problems, most notably aggression. We believe the situation is exacerbated if the mother is the family member imprisoned. This situation sets up a cycle of inter-generational incarceration, which is something this measure will help to begin to mitigate. The data it collects are also a requirement of many grants available to help these underserved inmates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 913.

Respectfully,

Bishop Stephen Randolph Sykes  
*President, The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i*

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**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:59:07 AM

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony K Pacheco	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB913 which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. Native Hawaiian children may be more likely to experience the trauma of having parents sent to prison, and there is currently no data being collected to identify these children and support more effective programs and services. I believe that if we know more about these keiki, we can better address the challenges they are experiencing. This bill could support long-term access to grant funding, providing consistent services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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I am Barbara Service and I live in Senate District 9 and Representative District 19.

I urge your strong support of SB 913 which would require the state to collect information about the children of inmates in Hawaii's prison system. As a former Child Welfare Services social worker, I know that children of incarcerated parents frequently suffer trauma as a result of the break-up of the family. Also, these children are much more likely (than the children of non-incarcerated parents) to grow up and become incarcerated themselves, to be homeless and to endure poverty.

It is vital that the state begin to identify these children and to initiate services to break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration.

Thank you for your consideration of strong support.

Barbara J. Service

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
G Asi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB913 which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. Native Hawaiian children may be more likely to experience the trauma of having parents sent to prison, and there is currently no data being collected to identify these children and support more effective programs and services. I believe that if we know more about these keiki, we can better address the challenges they are experiencing. This bill could support long-term access to grant funding, providing consistent services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Lusk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jo-Ann M Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to collect data relating to the number of offenders coming into the state correctional system who are parents and the number of minor children they have. Currently no data are gathered on children. The lack of data hampers the state in making viable public policy, hampers child advocacy groups when applying for grants. Nationally it is estimated that children with incarcerated fathers are three times more likely to become homeless. They also suffer significantly higher rates of behavioral and mental-health problems, most notably aggression. Gathering data on these children will help legislators in forming better policy and nonprofit organizations if offering support.

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaimo Muhlestein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leanne Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB913 which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. Native Hawaiian children may be more likely to experience the trauma of having parents sent to prison, and there is currently no data being collected to identify these children and support more effective programs and services. I believe that if we know more about these keiki, we can better address the challenges they are experiencing. This bill could support long-term access to grant funding, providing consistent services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Koholua	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB913 which will require the Department of Public Safety to collect intake data relating to parents in prison and their children. Native Hawaiian children may be more likely to experience the trauma of having parents sent to prison, and there is currently no data being collected to identify these children and support more effective programs and services. I believe that if we know more about these keiki, we can better address the challenges they are experiencing. This bill could support long-term access to grant funding, providing consistent services for children of incarcerated parents, and hopefully reduce the number of children that fall through the cracks. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

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**SB913**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Feb 26, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Without this data, children are being denied fair and reasonable access to their parents in prison. Please allow this data collection to occur so that we can better understand the impact this issue has on our children.

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