

ACT 246

S.B. NO. 2641

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Judiciary.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, as of 2018, seventy-five per cent of incarcerated women in Hawaii had children. Previous surveys have shown that many women who are on parole are also mothers of minor children.

The legislature further finds that studies have clearly shown that when women in the criminal justice system are separated from their children, the experience has devastating impacts on the children's mental health and development. These impacts can increase the risk of multigenerational incarceration. The separation also has a destructive and traumatic impact on mothers.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys for residential programs that allow minor children to remain with their mothers while participating in the program, to reduce the risk of trauma and multigenerational incarceration.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for residential programs that allow minor children to remain with their mothers while participating in the program, including:

- (1) Community-based furlough programs;
- (2) Residential drug treatment programs;
- (3) Therapeutic community programs; and
- (4) Mental health programs.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

(Approved July 6, 2022.)