
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 an estimated six
2 thousand children in the State of Hawaii have a parent in
3 prison. Many children of incarcerated parents experience grief,
4 guilt, shame, fear, depression, and have difficulty sleeping or
5 concentrating. Although children need to maintain contact with
6 their parent, visits at correctional facilities can be
7 frightening for some children.

8 The purpose of this Act is to help maintain the well-being
9 of children of incarcerated parents and support their needs.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§346- Guiding principles to be used by state agencies
14 when dealing with children of incarcerated parents. The guiding
15 principles to be used by the state agencies when dealing with
16 children of incarcerated parents shall be as follows:

17 (1) Children should be treated with respect and dignity at
18 all times;



- 1 (2) The children's safety and care should be of paramount
2 importance to all involved;
- 3 (3) If the children so choose, communication avenues
4 should be made available such that the children should
5 have opportunities to see, speak to, or visit parents,
6 where appropriate;
- 7 (4) State support for the children should be provided as
8 resources permit;
- 9 (5) The children should be kept safe and informed at the
10 time of the parent's arrest;
- 11 (6) The children's wishes should be taken into
12 consideration regarding any decisions made concerning
13 their welfare;
- 14 (7) The children's wishes should be taken into
15 consideration when decisions are made about their
16 incarcerated parent;
- 17 (8) Children should be well cared for in the absence of an
18 incarcerated parent;
- 19 (9) Children should receive proper support during any
20 struggles with the parent's incarceration;
- 21 (10) Children should not be judged, blamed, or labeled
22 because of a parent's incarceration; and



1 (11) Children should receive support for the desire to
2 retain a relationship with an incarcerated parent,
3 where appropriate."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2345
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Children; Children of Incarcerated Parents; Guiding Principles

Description:

Establishes guiding principles to be used by state agencies when dealing with children of incarcerated parents. (CD1)

