



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

GOV. MSG. NO. 1251

June 24, 2014

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kim, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 24, 2014, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2308 SD1 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO CHILDREN
ACT 148 (14)

Sincerely,
Aloha
Neil Abercrombie

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

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 a growing prison
2 population has raised serious concerns regarding the collateral
3 effects of incarceration on the children and families of
4 incarcerated persons and the communities from which they came.
5 According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics' most
6 recent study on incarcerated parents in the United States, more
7 than 1,700,000 minors, representing 2.3 per cent of the
8 population, have at least one incarcerated parent.

9 The legislature further finds that the incarceration of a
10 parent is a traumatic event for children. Studies show that a
11 substantial number of incarcerated parents were deeply involved
12 in their children's lives before imprisonment by providing daily
13 care, as well as financial and emotional support. Studies also
14 show that the incarceration of a parent is likely to result in
15 unstable family relationships, poor academic performance,
16 financial instability, material hardship, and social stigma.

17 Providing social services and programs for children who
18 have a parent in the prison system supports the children's



1 emotional and behavioral well-being. Furthermore, providing
2 support to incarcerated parents and their children preserves and
3 strengthens family connections, which yield positive societal
4 benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, less
5 intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and
6 improved healthy child development.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for
8 programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and
9 to assist with family reunification.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$125,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
13 funding programs and services for children of incarcerated
14 parents and assisting with family reunification.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

APPROVED this 24 day of JUN, 2014



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII