



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REPORT TO THE 2008 LEGISLATURE**

**ACT 250
S.B. 1174 (2006)
PUBLIC SAFETY**

Department of Public Safety
Corrections Program Services Division
Education Services Branch
January 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, 2007, found that the strengthening of family relationships has a positive effect on recidivism by lessening the possibility of future incarceration after an inmate's release from a correctional facility. As such, the legislature appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum or so much thereof for fiscal year 2008-2009 to support the continuation and expansion of parent-child interaction programs at state correctional facilities and institutions and agencies servicing other offender populations, such as the successful model: the Strengthening Keiki of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) Project.

II. FUNDING PROVISIONS

The Department of Public Safety shall take steps to implement incarcerated parent-child interaction programs such as the SKIP program and contract with nonprofit health and human services and other relevant agencies or organizations to develop and implement the recommended programs and services. Funding may be used for:

- (1) The purchasing, development, and implementation of offender parent-child interaction programs that meet security requirements, such as the SKIP program, throughout the state correctional system and for institutions and agencies servicing other offender populations;
- (2) The collection of best available demographic data on the children of incarcerated parents including the number of children each incarcerated parent has; custody and caregiving arrangements; and needed services provided that such data is to remain confidential and made available for the sole use of government agencies and government-contracted service providers and for the sole purpose of providing services to these children;
- (3) An independent review of the programs using researchers such as the University of Hawaii at Manoa, public policy center;
- (4) The training of Public Safety personnel on the merits of the programs; and
- (5) The hiring of additional Public Safety personnel to facilitate the implementation of the programs.

III. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The independent reviewer contracted by the Director of Public Safety shall submit a report, including its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 regular session.

IV. STATUS REPORT

The Department of Public Safety held initial discussions with a representative of the Strengthening Keiki of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) Partnership. Further meetings are planned in January 2008 to define the specific scope of interaction services to be provided by nonprofit health and human services and other relevant agencies and organizations for incarcerated parents and their children. In the interim, nonprofit organizations continue to provide interactive services in the following correctional centers on a voluntary basis:

The Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC) for over ten years has fostered children interaction programs for incarcerated parents through state supported programs and nonprofit organizations, such as, Makua Keiki.

The Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC) offers No Na Kamalii for the male inmates and their children. Kamalama is the parenting class that incorporates Hawaiian Culture perspectives. The community partners for this program are the Queen Lilioukalani Children's Center, the Keiki O Ka Aina program, the Neighborhood Place in Wailuku, and the Hui Malama Learning Center. The MCCC women inmates and their children are provided services through the Ohana Strengthening program that is facilitated by the Maui Economic Opportunity's Free to Grow program.

The Women Community Correctional Center (WCCC) provides mothers with an environment in which to interact with their children in WCCC's Keiki Hale. This program is facilitated by the Keiki O Ka Aina program. Other activities at WCCC include KID's Day, Teenage KID's Day and Girl Scouts Visitation. Parenting classes are also provided by through SKIP Partnership.

Plans to provide interaction services are under consideration at the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC). Upon completion of the new program building at HCCC's Hale Nani Annex, nonprofit groups, such as, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE), The Institute For Family Enrichment (TIFFE), the Turning Points for Families, Queen Lilioukalani Children's Center, and Read to Me International, will begin to deliver interaction services. Training with these agencies and the Maui program is scheduled to commence on January 30, 2008.