EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 12, 2006

The Honorable Calvin K. Y. Say, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

Re: House Bill No. 2595 HD1 SD2 CD1

On July 11, 2006, House Bill No. 2595, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Family Visits," became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The purpose of House Bill No. 2595 is to ensure family members can visit inmates at a correctional facility during official visiting hours.

This bill raises concerns because it is vague as to whether the Department of Public Safety may cancel visits by family members when emergency situations would so merit. The bill was passed as a result of isolated incidents of family visits being cancelled due to staffing shortages.

Recognizing the need to be more accommodating of special visits by family members, the Department of Public Safety has implemented changes to its visitation policies. The Department's policy now addresses the concerns giving rise to this bill. At the same time, it also reserves in the Department the needed flexibility to cancel visitations when security concerns merit.

I believe these visitation policy rules, coupled with the provisions of this bill, address the concerns family members of incarcerated persons may have had.

For the foregoing reasons, I have allowed House Bill No. 2595 to become law as Act 318 effective July 11, 2006 without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE