



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2763 HD1 SD1 CD1

On July 8, 2008, House Bill No. 2763, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Children of Incarcerated Parents Task Force" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill re-establishes a task force that has already ceased operations and submitted its report to the 2008 Legislature.

While we appreciate the intent of this measure to ensure continued focus on the needs of children of incarcerated parents, this bill has a number of troubling aspects. First, it sets up a large task force within the Department of Human Services, but fails to provide funding or other resources to support this group. However, the bill mandates that the Department of Human Services pay for the travel and related expenses of the Task Force's operations. This de-facto means that money will need to be pulled from other important social service programs to pay for a group that is studying a topic that has already been researched in some detail.

Second, the 2008 report for the former Task Force contained recommendations that seemed to fall into three categories. The first category included programs that the Department of Public Safety and other organizations are already pursuing. This is not to imply that these programs cannot be improved, but it does little good to recommend the replication of programs that already exist. The second category included proposals that are beyond the scope and resources available to the State for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the Task Force has made suggestions that could increase the legal liabilities incurred by the State.

Despite these concerns, this Administration suggests that the Task Force seek funds from non-State sources and that it focus on working closely with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Safety on improving programs already in place to assist parents who are incarcerated and their children.

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For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 2763 to become law as Act 240,
effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "L" being particularly large and stylized.

LINDA LINGLE