
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Act 156 Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, as amended
2 by Act 148, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, is amended by amending
3 section 2 to read as follows:

4 "SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
5 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
6 as follows:

7 **"CHAPTER**

8 **COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD**

9 § -1 **Findings and purpose.** The legislature finds that,
10 across the United States, there is a renewed understanding of
11 the unique importance of fathers in the lives of their children,
12 families, and communities. It is widely recognized that
13 children are more likely to thrive with support, guidance, and
14 nurturing from both parents. The absence of one parent from a
15 child's life can place that child at a greater risk of health,
16 emotional, educational, and behavioral problems associated with
17 the child's development. However, many young men today are
18 themselves fatherless, lack appropriate role models, and are in



1 director of the office of youth services, or their
2 designees; and

3 (2) Eight voting members shall be appointed by the
4 governor as provided in section 26-34, except as
5 otherwise provided in this section, as follows:

6 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the governor
7 from a list of three nominees submitted by the
8 president of the senate, and two members shall be
9 appointed by the governor from a list of three
10 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of
11 representatives; and

12 (B) Four members shall be appointed by the governor
13 from the community.

14 (3) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
15 Coalition for Dads.

16 (b) Of the appointed members, there shall be at least one
17 member from each of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

18 (c) All members shall serve for a term of two years. Any
19 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
20 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same
21 manner as the original appointments.

1 (d) The chair and vice chair of the board shall be
2 selected annually from the nongovernmental members of the
3 commission appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(2). A simple
4 majority shall constitute a quorum, whose affirmative vote shall
5 be necessary for all actions.

6 (e) The members shall serve without compensation.

7 (f) Any member of the commission shall be immune from
8 civil liability as provided in section 26-35.5.

9 **§ -4 Duties.** The commission shall serve in an advisory
10 capacity to state agencies to promote healthy family
11 relationships between parents and children. In addition, the
12 commission may make recommendations on programs, services, and
13 contracts relating to children and families, and may:

14 (1) Act as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body
15 for governmental and nongovernmental activities and
16 information relating to the promotion of healthy
17 families;

18 (2) Identify promising best practices that support and
19 engage both parents in the emotional and financial
20 support of their children;

21 (3) Identify obstacles that impede or prevent the
22 involvement of fathers in the lives of their children;



- 1 (4) Raise public awareness of the consequences that the
2 absence of the father may cause in a child's life;
- 3 (5) Recommend policies and practices, both within and
4 without state government, that sustain and reengage
5 fathers in the lives of their children;
- 6 (6) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
7 programs designed to educate and train young men who
8 are both current and future fathers as to effective
9 parenting skills, behaviors, and attitudes;
- 10 (7) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
11 programs that promote fatherhood;
- 12 (8) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
13 programs that counter poverty and low income by
14 increasing the capacity of fathers to overcome
15 personal challenges and become productive,
16 independent, and financially responsible contributors
17 to their family; and
- 18 (9) Do any and all things necessary to carry out its
19 duties and the purposes of this chapter.

20 § -5 **Meetings.** The meetings of the commission shall be
21 subject to the requirements of chapter 92.

1 **§ -6 Exemption from administrative supervision of boards**
2 **and commissions.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
3 commission shall be exempt from section 26-35 with the exception
4 of section 26-35(2), (3), (7), and (8).

5 **§ -7 Administration of funds.** The commission shall
6 administer funds appropriated or allocated for its work and
7 shall be authorized to accept, disburse, and allocate funds that
8 may become available from other governmental and private
9 sources; provided that all such funds shall be disbursed or
10 allocated in compliance with any specific designation stated by
11 the donor and, in the absence of any specific designation, the
12 funds shall be disbursed or allocated on projects related to any
13 of the purposes of this chapter.""

14 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Commission on Fatherhood; Membership

Description:

Replaces the director of the office of children and youth with the director of public safety, or a designee, as a member of the commission. (CD1)

