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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY COURT.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 571, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4           "§571- Kids first program; expansion of program. The  
5 kids first program shall be expanded to emphasize the importance  
6 of the development of a parenting plan pursuant to section  
7 571-46.5."

8           SECTION 2. Section 571-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
10 and to read as follows:

11           ""Kids first program" means the mandatory family court  
12 program for families going through divorce that is designed to  
13 help parents understand the effects of separation and divorce on  
14 their minor children and to help minor children cope with  
15 changes in their families."

16           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           , or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for



1 expansion of the family court's kids first mandatory education  
 2 program for divorcing families, to assist and support parents in  
 3 developing an effective parenting plan and in educating judges,  
 4 attorneys, and all parties on the intent of Act 244, Session  
 5 Laws of Hawaii 2005. Expansion of kids first is intended to:

- 6 (1) Allow parents to be better informed;
- 7 (2) Assist parents in resolving the differences in  
 8 parties' parenting plans; and
- 9 (3) Extend the program's outreach to family court judges  
 10 and to attorneys whose clients participate in the kids  
 11 first program to provide them with a better  
 12 understanding of how divorce affects parents and their  
 13 children.

14 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
 15 judiciary for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

PROPOSED

**Report Title:**

Family Court; Kids First; Expansion of Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Expands the family court's mandatory "Kids First" program to include an emphasis on the importance of the developing parenting program. Appropriates unspecified amount of funds to expand outreach of the "Kids First" program. (SD1)

