

# State Commission on Fatherhood **LATE**

c/o Hawai'i Dept. of Human Services; 1390 Miller Street, Room 209; Honolulu, HI 96813

**TESTIMONY ON: SB 2226 - Appropriation for staffing the State Commission on Fatherhood**

**FOR: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**

**DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2008; 1:30 p.m. Committee Hearing**

**LOCATION: Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

**SUBMITTED BY: Greg Farstrup, Chair, on behalf of the State Commission on Fatherhood**

Sgt.-At-Arms (fax: 586-6659)  
Please deliver copies to the  
*Senate HSP Committee*  
Hearing: January 31, 2008  
1:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. 016

Chair Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Human Services and Public Housing Committee.

The State Commission on Fatherhood **strongly supports SB 2226.**

Goals of legislation: Appropriating \$150,000 (FY 2008-09) to fund the implementation of the State Commission on Fatherhood's strategic plan by providing travel expenses of Neighbor Island Commissioners, establishing an office, and hiring a Director and a clerical staff person.

These staff would support the Fatherhood Commission's efforts to:

1. Complete its statewide analysis of service provision to fathers;
2. Develop policy recommendations on best practices for serving fathers through state agencies and their providers of services;
3. Develop, support, and advocate for legislation which facilitates father involvement in the lives of children;
4. Operate year-round public awareness campaigns on the importance of father involvement in the lives of children;
5. Provide information, resources, and events related to effective fathering and the parenting support available to fathers and families;
6. Implement the Parent-Friendly Business Award as requested by the Legislature;
7. Administer funds for its work and the work of organizations it funds through grant-making activity; and
8. Leverage additional fatherhood support funds from other sources.

Outcomes of this legislation: A staffed office will provide a key point of contact to work with policymakers, state agencies, and the public on fatherhood issues; allow for successful accomplishment of State Commission on Fatherhood strategic plan, including publication of an annual report on the status of fatherhood issues in Hawai'i; identify and promote new laws, policies, and best practices to improve father involvement; and finally—this legislation will help to leverage additional funds from other sources to help accomplish the above.

**The State Commission on Fatherhood members support passage of SB 2226.**

State Commission on Fatherhood: Greg Farstrup, Chair (*Hawai'i Coalition for Dads*); Marika Ripke, Secretary/ Treasurer (*Hawaii Kids Count, UH Manoa*); Barrett Awai (Kawaiah'o Church); Bernard Carvalho (*Office of Community Assistance, Kaua'i County*); Merton Chinen (*Office of Youth Services*); Mike Dias (*Aju Like-Hilo*); Dennis Kajikawa (*Dept. of Education*); Loretta Fuddy (*Dept. of Health*); Myrna Murdoch (*Children's Rights Council of Hawaii*); Henry Oliva (*Dept. of Human Services*); Tom Read (*Dept. of Public Safety*); Russell Suzuki (*Dept. of Attorney General*); and Sylvia Yuen (*Center on the Family, UH Manoa*).

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 31, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 2226 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE  
COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD  
Hearing: Thursday, January 31, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funding for operations, including staffing, for the State Commission on Fatherhood.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that its passage does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

The Department recognizes the important role that fathers play in the family and in the lives of their children and has included \$50,000 in Federal funds in the Department's budget to provide contracts and grants to established agencies for programs for fatherhood initiatives.

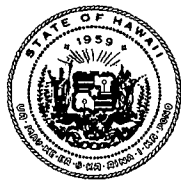
The Hawaii Commission on Fatherhood was established by Act 156, SLH 2003, and directs the Commission to serve in an advisory capacity to State agencies to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children. The Commission is authorized to make recommendations on programs, services, and contracts relating to children and families.

Across the nation, there is a renewed understanding of the unique importance of fathers in the lives of their children, families, and communities. It is widely recognized that children are more likely to thrive with support, guidance, and nurturing from both parents. The presence of fathers has a positive impact on the lives of their children, as reflected in better school performance, fewer high-risk behaviors, higher self-esteem, and less substance abuse. Healthy families mean less impact on our child protective services and at-risk youth and youth offender programs and the Judiciary. However, many young men today are themselves fatherless, lack appropriate role models, and are in need of information and education regarding the appropriate roles and responsibilities of fathers.

The Commission on Fatherhood plays an important role in promoting healthy family relationships between parents and children and promotes involved, nurturing, and responsible fatherhood.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

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January 31, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 2102, RELATING TO RELATING TO CARE HOMES

Hearing: Thursday, January 31, 2008, 1:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2102, is to increase State Supplemental Payments (SSP) for Adult Residential Care Homes (ARCH) Type I and II, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes by 7% from \$641.90 to \$686.83 (\$44.93 per month, per client) for Type I and from \$749.90 to \$802.39 (\$52.49 per month, per client) for level II.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill. For the purposes of this public hearing we are submitting information to assist you in your decision making.

The cost of this increase is \$1,304,818.80 for FY 09.

On occasions when the SSP has been raised in the past, the increase was in a dollar amount, not a percentage amount. The effect of the percentage increase is to further increase the disparity for the payments between Type I and Type II ARCHs who serve the same clients but have differing operating requirements. The Department has no opinion on this methodology but wanted to highlight the fact that this is different from past practice.

The State of Hawaii has a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Agreement with the Social Security Administration which specifies that in each calendar year, DHS shall be required to make at least the same or greater amount of total monetary payments in the form of SSP to populations residing in designated living arrangements. Anytime there is an increase in the SSP rate, the increase automatically raises the MOE requirement by that increased amount the following year and thereafter, unless the number of recipients drops precipitously. While SSP rates reflect the maximum allowable payment to individuals, the department's MOE requirement with the Social Security Administration pertains to the total payment amount distributed to all SSP recipients.

If the Legislature determines that a SSP increase is warranted, the Department respectfully asks that the implementation of the proposed rate increase shall not adversely impact nor replace the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify

1/31/08

January 28, 2008

**To:** Senator Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

**From:** Tom Marzec

**Subj:** Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2226 which appropriates funds for the  
State Commission on Fatherhood

**Hearing:** Thursday, 01-31-08 at 1:30 pm in conference room 016

I strongly support SB2226. Providing for an Executive Director and appropriate staff would allow the Fatherhood Commission to effectively assist fathers in their needs.

Fathers too often either fall through the cracks or the system is blind or not responsive to their unique needs. The Fatherhood Commission, having equivalent funding as the Commission on the Status of Women, would show that fathers matter as much as mothers. Helping both fathers and mothers ultimately supports our children and families, and having strong families is essential to the well being of our state.

Your consideration of this bill, and support for funding the Fatherhood Commission, is very appreciated.