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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
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March 13, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2226, S.D. 1.-. MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE
STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD**

Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2008; 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: Appropriates TANF funds for the State Commission on Fatherhood.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: 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 on fatherhood initiatives.

The Department does have a concern that this bill proposes that an unspecified amount of Federal TANF funds be appropriated for the administrative costs of the Commission, including hiring the Executive Director and staff, establishing an office, and paying for the travel expenses of the Neighbor Island Commissioners.

Act 213, Section 202, SLH 2007, Relating to the State Budget, capped Federal TANF funds at \$9.5 million for administrative expenses. The Legislature will have to

increase the ceiling cap for both the total TANF program and TANF administrative expenses to implement this bill.

We request that the passage of this bill does not replace nor adversely affect the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget, nor result in any cuts to existing TANF-funded programs, services and benefits..

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

State Commission on Fatherhood

MISSION: *To promote healthy family relationships between parents and children by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children.*

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

March 12, 2008

TO: Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair; Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
House Committee Human Services & Housing (c/o fax: 586-6189)

FROM: Greg Farstrup, Chair, State Commission on Fatherhood

SUBJECT: Testimony **IN STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2226 SD1** (with an amendment)
which makes an Appropriation for staffing the State Commission on Fatherhood

HEARING: Thursday, March 13, 2008; 9:30 a.m.; Room 329, State Capitol

Chair Rep. Shimabukuro and Members of the Human Services & Housing Committee.

The State Commission on Fatherhood (SCF) **strongly supports SB2226 SD1 with an amendment changing "appropriated out of temporary assistance for needy families funds..." (p. 3, l. 6-7) to "appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii..."** (from the original SB2226). The Department of Human Services (where SCF is placed for administrative purposes) continues to declare that TANF funds cannot be used for staffing the State Commission on Fatherhood.

Appropriating \$150,000 (FY 2008-09) would support the State Commission on Fatherhood's implementation of its 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 implement its goals and objectives as described in SB2226 SD1.

The Legislature "in recognition of the important and unique role fathers play in the lives of their children, families, and communities..." established the State Commission on Fatherhood in 2003. Its mission is "to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children" (<http://hawaii.gov/dhs/fatherhood/fatherhood/>)

However, the State Commission on Fatherhood has received no State funding for staffing and consequently has functioned with no staff in the 5 years since it was established in 2003. During these same 5 years the State Commission on the Status of Women has received over \$500,000 for staffing its work. Although the State Commission on Fatherhood's mission is narrower than the State Commission on the Status of Women (which needs additional support for its important work), the Fatherhood Commission cannot effectively carry out its mission without staffing.

The State Commission on Fatherhood supports passage of SB2226 SD1 (with the above amendment).

State Commission on Fatherhood: Greg Farstrup, Chair (*Hawai'i Coalition for Dads*); Marika Ripke, Secretary/ Treasurer (*Hawai'i Kids Count, UH Manoa*); Barrett Awai (*Kawaiaha'o Church*); Bernard Carvalho (*Office of Community Assistance, Kaua'i County*); Merton Chinen (*Office of Youth Services*); Mike Dias (*Alu 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 Generals*); and Sylvia Yuen (*Center on the Family, UH Manoa*).

From: Tom Marzec [mailto:tom.marzec@1987.usna.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 4:27 PM
To: HSHtestimony
Cc: tom.marzec@1987.usna.com
Subject: SB2226 SD1 HSH on Thursday, 03-13-08 at 9:30 am in House CR 329
Importance: High

To: Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

From: Tom Marzec

Subj: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2226 SD1** which appropriates funds
for the State Commission on Fatherhood (SCF)

Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 9:30 am in House conference room 329

I strongly support SB2226 SD1. This funding request has been before the Legislature for several years now, and 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. Funding the Fatherhood Commission, to an equivalent level 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.

I understand that the Department of Human Services can not fund the State Commission on Fatherhood staff from temporary assistance for needy families funds. Please amend this bill to prioritize this funding from the general revenues of the state of Hawaii. I would much prefer that our tax revenues be spent on programs that assist parents, children and families.

Please fund the Fatherhood Commission this year!

Your consideration and support for this bill is very appreciated.