

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

February 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 800 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE  
COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD  
Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2009, 1:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate State general funds for the State Commission on Fatherhood.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that its passage does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget. The Department recognizes the important role that fathers play in the family and in the lives of their children.

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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
820 Mililani Street, Suite 817  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-5700  
Fax: (808) 587-5734

February 11, 2009

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services, Vice Chair

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: SB 800, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE  
COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD**

Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2009, 1:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports the intent of SB 800, making an appropriation for the State Commission on Fatherhood (SCF), as long as its passage does not adversely affect the priorities of the Executive Budget.

The OYS has participated as a member of the SCF since its creation by Act 156, SLH 2003; among its achievements, the SCF has supported two state-wide conferences on fatherhood, distributed grants to the community focusing on fatherhood, and sponsored the annual Outstanding Parent Friendly Business Awards during Children and Youth Month. The SCF will continue to explore alternative funding resources to help carry out its mission to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

# State Commission on Fatherhood

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

**TESTIMONY ON: SB 800 - Appropriation for staffing the  
State Commission on Fatherhood**

**FOR: Senate Committee on Human Services**

**DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2009; 1:45 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 HMS Committee*

Chair Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for introducing and hearing SB 800.

The State Commission on Fatherhood **strongly supports SB 800, with the following suggested amendments:**

1—We request AMENDING the fiscal year designation in SECTION 2 of SB 800 from ~~FY 2009-10~~ to FY 2009-11 and designating an appropriation of \$150,000 for each fiscal year 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. The goals and objectives of the Fatherhood Commission's strategic plan are spelled out in SB 800.

2—We also request adding language to SB 800 that would AMEND the voting member terms of section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (§577E-3 (3)(c) ?) that establishes the State Commission on Fatherhood to be four (4) year term appointments with a limit of two (2) terms for voting members.

Participation in the monthly Fatherhood Commission meetings by voting Commission members has been severely inhibited by the present two (2) year terms as well as by difficulties with making timely voting Commission members replacement appointments when vacancies occur.

The State Commission on Fatherhood members **support passage of SB 800, with the above suggested amendments.**

State Commission on Fatherhood: Greg Farstrup, Chair (*Hawai'i Coalition for Dads*); Bernard Carvalho (*Office of Community Assistance, Kaua'i County*); Merton Chinen (*Office of Youth Services*); Mike Dias (*Alu Like-Hilo*); Gordon Miyamoto (*Dept. of Education*); Don Fiburn (*Dept. of Health*); Myrna Murdoch (*Children's Rights Council of Hawaii*); Henry Oliva (*Dept. of Human Services*); Tom Read (*Dept. of Public Safety*); Claud Sutcliffe (*Mediation Center of Molokai*); Russell Suzuki (*Dept. of Attorney General*); and Sylvia Yuen (*Center on the Family, UH Manoa*).