

JAN 23 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children whose  
2 parents are engaged in a high conflict divorce suffer from  
3 behavioral, social, and emotional maladjustment. Research finds  
4 that when parents are able to cooperate, disengage from their  
5 conflict with each other, and support the child's relationship  
6 with the other parent, their children are more productive,  
7 better adjusted, and more emotionally secure.

8           Pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 10 (2007), the senate  
9 committee on human services and public housing formed the family  
10 court legal interventions working group to study the  
11 recommendations made by prior committees dedicated to studying  
12 methods of family court intervention and best practices for  
13 children in the family court system.

14           The working group evaluated the parenting plan mediation  
15 pilot program, which aims to assist parents to develop a  
16 parenting plan without and prior to family court intervention.  
17 The goal of the pilot program is to shorten the amount of time



# S.B. NO. 196

1 it takes for divorcing couples to reach custody agreements and  
2 reduce the chances of recurring conflict.

3 The purpose of this Act is to implement the recommendation  
4 of the family court legal interventions working group by  
5 providing funding for a parenting plan mediation pilot program.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$85,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the  
9 sum of \$85,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
10 year 2010-2011 for the purpose of developing the parenting plan  
11 mediation pilot program.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary on  
13 a grant executed in accordance with chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised  
14 Statutes, with Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii for  
15 implementation of the parenting plan mediation pilot program.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.  
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**Report Title:**

Parenting Plan Mediation Pilot Program; Family Court Legal Interventions Working Group; Judiciary; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the judiciary for a grant to Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii for the implementation of the parenting plan mediation pilot program.

