

State Commission on Fatherhood

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

TESTIMONY ON: **SB 2075 - Making an Appropriation for the State Commission on Fatherhood**

FOR: **Senate Committee on Human Services**

DATE: **Tuesday, February 2, 2010; 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**

Chair Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for introducing and hearing SB 2075.

The State Commission on Fatherhood **strongly supports SB 2075, which makes an appropriation for the State Commission on Fatherhood.**

Goals of legislation: Appropriating \$150,000 (FY 2010-11) 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 advance the Fatherhood Commission's legislative mandate 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.

The State Commission on Fatherhood members **urge you to pass SB 2075.**

State Commission on Fatherhood: Greg Farstrup, Chair (Hawai'i Coalition for Dads); Chet Adessa (Navy Fleet & Family Support Center); Merton Chinen (Office of Youth Services); Mike Dias (Alu Like-Hilo); Elwood Machado (Kaua'i County); Gordon Miyamoto (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); Claud Sutcliffe (Mediation Center of Molokai); and Russell Suzuki (Dept. of Attorney General).

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Tom Marzec [adamtm@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 6:54 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2075 Fatherhood Commission funding, 2Feb10

February 2, 2010

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Tom Marzec

Subj: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2075** Fatherhood Commission funding

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2010; 1:30 p.m.; Room 016, State Capitol

The State Commission on Fatherhood plays a very important role in highlighting and supporting the roles of fathers and families.

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. 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 these issues is appreciated.