

State Commission on Fatherhood

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

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

TESTIMONY ON: **SB 923 - Increases the Terms of Members of the Commission on Fatherhood from Two to Four Years**

FOR: **House Committee on Human Services**

DATE: **Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 2:00 p.m. Committee Hearing**

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

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

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, thank you for hearing **SB 923**.

The State Commission on Fatherhood **strongly supports SB 923, which increases the terms of members of the State Commission on Fatherhood from two (2) to four (4) years.**

Participation in the monthly State Commission on Fatherhood meetings by voting members of the Fatherhood Commission has been severely inhibited by the present two (2) year terms as well as by difficulties with making timely voting-member replacement appointments when vacancies occur on the Commission. This bill will help facilitate the functioning of the State Commission on Fatherhood as well as provide for institutional knowledge and continuity.

The members of State Commission on Fatherhood urge Senate Human Services Committee to **pass SB 923.**

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); Elwood Machado (Kaua'i County); Gordon Miyamoto (Dept. of Education); Tod Robertson (Dept. of Health); Pankaj Bhanot (Dept. of Human Services); Tom Read (Dept. of Public Safety); Claud Sutcliffe (Maui County); and Russell Suzuki (Dept. of Attorney General).