

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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February 8, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 924 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE
COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 924 is to appropriate general funds for the State Commission on Fatherhood.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives but we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

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 924 - Making an Appropriation for the State Commission on Fatherhood**

FOR: **Senate 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 Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for introducing and hearing SB 924.

The State Commission on Fatherhood **strongly supports SB 924, which makes an appropriation for the State Commission on Fatherhood.**

Goals of legislation: Appropriating \$150,000 (FY 2011-12; 2012 -13) 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 924.**

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 (*Mau'i County*); and Russell Suzuki (*Dept. of Attorney General*).