



JUDICIARY COMM. NO. 5

Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts – THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII
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December 20, 2018

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

Pursuant to Section 607-5.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Judiciary is transmitting a copy of the *Report on the Parent Education Special Fund*, including an accounting of all deposits into and expenditures from the fund.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, we are also transmitting a copy of this report to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library.

The public may view electronic copies of this report on the Judiciary's website at the following link: http://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/reports/reports.html.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Karen Takahashi of the Judiciary's Legislative Coordinating Office at 539-4896, or via e-mail at Karen.T.Takahashi@courts.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney A. Maile".

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

Enclosure

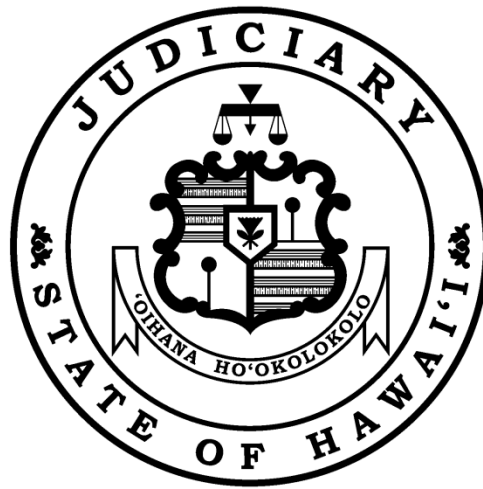
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Office of the Clerk, Hawaii House of Representatives

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
2019 REGULAR SESSION**

ON

**ACT 274, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 1997
HRS § 607-5.6**

A Report on the Parent Education Special Fund



Prepared by:

**Family Court, First Circuit
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2018

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**ACT 274, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 1997
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A Report on the Parent Education Special Fund

Act 274, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1997, requires the Judiciary to submit a report on the Parent Education Fund.

The Parent Education Special Fund was established by the 1997 Legislature, State of Hawai'i, through Act 274. In 2003, HRS § 607-5.6 was amended to increase the Fund's surcharge to \$50 for Family Court matrimonial cases and to add the surcharge to paternity actions.

The Purpose of the Fund

Parents attending the divorce education programs in Hawai'i (Kids First, Children in Transition, Children First) are encouraged to refocus on their children's needs and learn how continued fighting will negatively impact the children. Parents are given parenting guides as well as island-specific printed material with information on resources for counseling, domestic violence, parenting classes, and anger management classes. They watch the award winning Purple Family movie and other video, and are encouraged to mediate rather than litigate their custody conflicts.

Children ages 6 to 17 years old also attend the classes to help them cope with their parents' divorce or separation. They learn that they are not the cause of the separation, that parents do not divorce their children, and that their family is not the only one going through this difficult experience. Children and teens participate in age-appropriate discussions and activities focused on helping each child understand their emotions or problems that may be occurring because of their changing family. The website www.KidsFirstHawaii.com provides program and contact information for the general public.

All parents are told:

- Children will thrive if they live in safe homes and are loved by both parents.
- Family violence is never appropriate and is extremely harmful to children.
- The court takes into account the safety of victims and children in making custody and visitation decisions.

Current Programs

Each Circuit has a parent education program for separating and divorcing parents and their minor children (ages 6 to 17). The Third Circuit has two programs, one in Hilo and one in Kona.

Judicial Circuit FY18	Adults Attending	Children Attending	FY18 Total
First (O'ahu)	2,617	1,425	4,042
Second (Maui)	436	240	676
Third (Hilo)	204	146	350
Third (Kona)	187	141	328
Fifth (Kaua'i)	219	99	318
Total Attendance:	3,663	2,051	5,714

On O'ahu, 3,366 new marital actions (divorce) were filed; half included families with minor children. Additionally on O'ahu, 989 paternity (unmarried parents) petitions, and 9 civil union divorces were filed. Never-married parties litigating custody matters (51% of O'ahu paternity cases) were included in the education program to teach them parallel parenting skills. Children from never-married parents' relationships, who had lived together in the same household, also attend. The remaining paternity cases, filed by the Child Support Enforcement Agency, involve child support reimbursements. The O'ahu Kids First program alternates its class weekly between the Honolulu Circuit Courthouse and Ronald T.Y. Moon Kapolei Court Complex.

The percentage of divorce filings for each circuit closely mirror the state's population distribution. The majority of the cases in the state were filed on O'ahu with 73% of the divorce filings and 60% of the paternity filings. The O'ahu Kids First office serviced 2,247 new cases (families). Program attendance from these families were 4,042 individuals (2,617 adults and 1,425 children).

Statewide, 94 divorce education class sessions were held serving a total of 5,714 parents and children. Statewide revenue was \$119,276 which includes an interest amount of \$1,376. Total expenses were \$139,865. Should revenues continue to not meet expenses, it may be necessary to increase the Parent Education Fund surcharge. The Parent Education Special Fund began collecting filing fee surcharges and donations on July 1, 1997.

Judicial Circuit Cases by type FY18	Divorce filings	Paternity filings	Civil Union cases	Total Cases FY18
First (O'ahu)	3,366	989	9	4,364
Second (Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i)	459	248	0	707
Third (Hilo)	297	231	2	530
Third (Kona)	270	132	1	403
Fifth (Kaua'i)	192	60	0	252
State Total:	4,584	1,660	12	6,256

The Parent Education Special Fund began collecting filing fee surcharges and donations on July 1, 1997. The attached financial report reflects the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the twenty-first year of collections. The Parent Education Fund continues to support all five of the Judiciary's parent education programs.

THE JUDICIARY
PARENT EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND
FY 2017-2018

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNTS				
		FIRST CIRCUIT	SECOND CIRCUIT	THIRD CIRCUIT	FIFTH CIRCUIT	TOTAL
<u>REVENUES</u>						
0288	INTEREST	1,376				1,376
0763	SURCHARGE	85,700	13,150	15,200	3,850	117,900
	TOTAL REVENUES	87,076	13,150	15,200	3,850	119,276
<u>OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES & ENCUMBRANCES</u>						
2902	SECURITY SERVICES	16,434	3,626			20,060
3204	DUPLICATING SUPPLIES	1,177				1,177
3209	OTHER STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,118				1,118
3301	FOOD SUPPLIES	4,992			1,106	6,098
3901	PRINTING AND BINDING	435				435
4102	CAR MILEAGE - OTHERS	612				612
4401	TRANS OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	2,515				2,515
4501	SUBSISTENCE OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	3,600				3,600
4601	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - EMPLOYEES	604				604
5503	OTHER RENTALS (PARKING PASS)	300				300
6619	OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE	2,304				2,304
7131	INTERPRETER FEES	2,360				2,360
7198	OTHER SERVICES ON FEE BASIS	49,954	15,000	18,750	7,650	91,354
7204	SPECIAL FUND ASSESSMENT (ACT 34, SLH 1964)	6,048				6,048
7205	TRAINING COSTS AND REGISTRATION FEES	1,280				1,280
	TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	93,733	18,626	18,750	8,756	139,865