



## JUDICIARY COMM. NO. 12

Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts – THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII  
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**Rodney A. Maile**  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

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December 13, 2019

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, Hawai'i 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 Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i 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](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](mailto: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

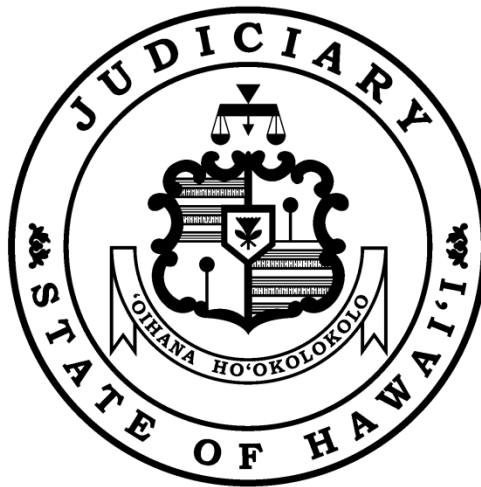
c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library  
Office of the Clerk, Hawai'i State Senate  
Office of the Clerk, Hawai'i House of Representatives

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
2020 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 2019**

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

**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 Special 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

The Parent Education Special Fund is used to administer education programs to families currently involved in divorce cases in the State of Hawai'i. Parties litigating custody matters as well as children of unmarried or never-married parents living in the same household are also required to attend. Parents attending the divorce education programs are encouraged to refocus on their children's needs by learning how continued fighting negatively impacts their children. They are also encouraged to mediate rather than litigate their custody conflicts. The programs emphasize that:

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

Children between the ages of six through 17 also attend to learn how to cope with changes in their family. The programs emphasize that children are not the cause of parental separation, that parents do not divorce their children, and that there are many families going through similar experiences. Children and teens participate in age-appropriate discussions and activities focused on helping each child identify and understand their emotions.

After an opening statement given by a Family Court judge, parents and children watch *The Purple Family* (1999), a timeless film which gently broaches themes of divorce and separation. The film is unique in that the words "divorce" or "separation" are never used explicitly to describe the family's situation. The programs distribute parenting guides with island-specific information on resources for counseling, domestic violence, parenting, and anger management classes. The website [www.kidsfirsthawaii.com](http://www.kidsfirsthawaii.com) is also available to provide island-specific program and contact information to families.

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.

### Parent Education Programs

Each circuit administers their own parent education program. In the First, Second, and Fifth Circuits, the program is called Kids First. Third Circuit has two programs; the program in Kona is Children First and the program in Hilo is Children in Transition.

The O'ahu Kids First Program is held most Wednesday evenings and alternates weekly between Ka'ahumanu Hale in Honolulu and the Ronald T.Y. Moon Court Complex in Kapolei. The Maui Kids First Program is held on the second Wednesday of the month at Hoapili Hale in Wailuku. On Hawai'i Island, Kona's Children First Program is held on the third Wednesday of the month at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, and Hilo's Children in Transition Program is held at Hale Kaulike on the second Tuesday of even-numbered months, as well as the second and fourth Tuesdays of odd-numbered months. Kaua'i's Kids First Program is held on the second Wednesday of the month at Pu'uuhonua Kaulike Building in Līhū'e.

<b>FY 2018-2019 Cases by Circuit</b>	<b>Divorce</b>	<b>Paternity</b>	<b>Civil Union</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>
First (O'ahu)	3,278	984	8	4,270
Second (Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i)	468	199	1	668
Third (Hilo & Kona)	505	292	3	800
Fifth (Kaua'i)	214	30	0	244
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5,982</b>

The percentage of filings for each circuit closely mirrors the state of Hawai'i's population distribution. The majority of the cases were filed on O'ahu with 3,278 new divorce cases (73% of state total) and 984 paternity filings (65% of state total). Of the paternity cases filed on O'ahu, half (50%) were filed by parties disputing custody and visitation matters. The remaining half involved child support reimbursement and were filed by the Child Support Enforcement Agency. Additionally, eight civil union divorces were filed on O'ahu (67% of state total).

Statewide, 92 divorce education classes were held serving a total of 6,282 individuals (3,963 parents and 2,319 children). In FY 2018-2019, Kids First O'ahu serviced a total of 4,102 individuals (2,633 adults and 1,469 children).

<b>FY 2018-2019 Attendance by Circuit</b>	<b>Adult Attendance</b>	<b>Children Attendance</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
First (O'ahu)	2,633	1,469	4,102
Second (Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i)	570	320	890
Third (Hilo)	289	223	512
Third (Kona)	172	157	329
Fifth (Kaua'i)	299	150	449
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>6,282</b>

Statewide revenues during FY 2018-2019 totaled \$113,623, which includes an interest amount of \$1,878. Total expenses were \$125,935. 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 beginning July 1, 1997. The attached financial report reflects the twenty-second year of collections. The Parent Education Fund continues to support all five of the State of Hawai'i Judiciary's parent education programs.

THE JUDICIARY  
PARENT EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND  
FY 2018-2019

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNTS				
		FIRST CIRCUIT	SECOND CIRCUIT	THIRD CIRCUIT	FIFTH CIRCUIT	TOTAL
<u>REVENUES</u>						
0288	INTEREST	1,878				1,878
0763	SURCHARGE	83,780	11,965	10,400	5,600	111,745
	TOTAL REVENUES	85,658	11,965	10,400	5,600	113,623
<u>OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES &amp; ENCUMBRANCES</u>						
2902	SECURITY SERVICES	14,725	3,626		3,051	21,402
3204	DUPLICATING SUPPLIES	1,783				1,783
3206	DATA PROCESSING SUPPLIES	0				0
3209	OTHER STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	646				646
3301	FOOD SUPPLIES	4,167			940	5,107
3501	DUES	0				0
3701	POSTAGE	0				0
3901	PRINTING AND BINDING	700				700
4101	CAR MILEAGE - EMPLOYEES	0				0
4102	CAR MILEAGE - OTHERS	948				948
4401	TRANS OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	0				0
4402	TRANS OUT OF STATE - OTHERS	0				0
4501	SUBSISTENCE OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	0				0
4601	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - EMPLOYEES	0				0
5503	OTHER RENTALS (PARKING PASS)	200				200
5801	FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT - R & M	236				236
6619	OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE	1,406				1,406
7131	INTERPRETER FEES	2,623				2,623
7198	OTHER SERVICES ON FEE BASIS	47,691	15,000	18,750	8,700	90,141
7204	SPECIAL FUND ASSESSMENT (ACT 34, SLH 1964)	743				743
7205	TRAINING COSTS AND REGISTRATION FEES	0				0
7215	OTHER MISC CURRENT EXP	0				0
	TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	75,868	18,626	18,750	12,691	125,935