

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature established the state  
2 commission on fatherhood in 2003 in recognition of the important  
3 and unique role fathers play in the lives of their children,  
4 families, and communities. Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii  
5 2003, as amended by Act 148, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, and  
6 Act 232, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, as amended by Act 190,  
7 Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, directs the commission to serve in  
8 an advisory capacity to state agencies to promote healthy family  
9 relationships between parents and children. In recognition of  
10 the commission's value and the need to continue to promote and  
11 support healthy families in Hawaii, the legislature established  
12 the commission as a permanent entity within the State in 2007.

13           The legislature further finds that it is necessary for the  
14 commission to hire an executive director and appropriate staff  
15 to implement its strategic plan which includes the following  
16 goals and objectives:

- 1           (1) Complete a statewide analysis of services available to  
2           fathers;
- 3           (2) Develop policy recommendations on best practices for  
4           serving fathers via state agencies and their service  
5           providers;
- 6           (3) Develop, support, and advocate legislation that  
7           facilitates father involvement in the lives of  
8           children;
- 9           (4) Operate year-round public awareness campaigns about  
10          the importance of father involvement in the lives of  
11          children;
- 12          (5) Make available to fathers and families, information,  
13          resources, and events related to effective fathering,  
14          and parenting support available;
- 15          (6) Implement a parent-friendly business award program;
- 16          (7) Raise and administer funds for the commission's work  
17          and the work of organizations it funds through grants;
- 18          (8) Publish an annual report on the status of fatherhood  
19          issues in Hawaii; and
- 20          (9) Identify and promote new laws, policies, and best  
21          practices to improve father involvement.

1           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
2 the operations of the state commission on fatherhood.

3           SECTION 2. Section 577E-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

5           "(c) All members shall serve for a term of [~~two~~] four  
6 years. Any vacancies occurring in the membership of the  
7 commission shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired  
8 term in the same manner as the original appointments. No member  
9 shall serve on the commission for more than two terms; provided  
10 that, if a member shall fill a vacancy and serve for the  
11 remainder of an unexpired term, that member shall be considered  
12 to have served one term."

13           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2010-2011 for the operations of the state commission on  
18 fatherhood, including hiring an executive director and staff,  
19 establishing an office, and paying travel expenses for neighbor  
20 island commissioners.

21           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
22 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

**Report Title:**

State Commission on Fatherhood; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the state commission on fatherhood.  
(SD1)