

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-EIGHTH HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2016**

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD  
December 2015**

## **THE STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

In 2003, the legislature passed Act 156 establishing the State Commission on Fatherhood to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children. The following is a report to the Legislature of the Commission's accomplishments and challenges in 2015.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES 2015**

1. To fulfill its duties as enumerated in Section 577E-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and in conjunction with goals of its strategic plan to identify best practices and programs that promote, foster and support healthy family relationships particularly those involving the role of fathers in the family unit, the State Commission on Fatherhood, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii Center on the Family, completed the first of a three phase project.
  - a. Phase 1: Conduct a demographic study of fathers in the State of Hawaii. “The State of Fathers in The State of Hawaii” was released in September 2015. It is the “first of its kind” in the state and is a resource for fathers and agencies. It is available to the public at [www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/fatherhood](http://www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/fatherhood) website.

The study's findings include the following:

- A larger percentage of fathers in Hawaii are part of a two-parent family when compared with fathers nationwide;
- Fathers in Hawai'i fare better than their mainland counterparts in terms of education, employment, and income;
- Like mothers across Hawaii and the mainland, fathers and their families flourish with community support;
- Among homeless families in Hawaii, more than half (54.5%) are two-parent families;
- Among single-parent homeless families in Hawaii, 11.5% are headed by a father;
- Among homeless families in Hawaii, 40.2% are father-absent families;
- Honolulu has the largest proportion of two-parent homeless families: 63.6% of the 1,072 homeless families;
- Maui has the lowest number of two-parent homeless families: 28% of the 250 homeless families;

- A higher proportion of single-father families have either no minor children, or only one child compared to two-parent and single-mother homeless families.
  - b. Phase 2. Conduct and Inventory of fatherhood programs throughout the state.
  - c. Phase 3: Conduct an inventory fatherhood resources and services throughout the state.
2. Media Contest: The commission launched a media contest which includes an essay, logo and slogan contest open to all high schools students throughout the state.
  3. The commission is in partnership with Maui Family Support Services and the Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund Coalition.
  4. The Commission participates in the following annual events:
    - a. Celebrate Fathers at Windward Mall (18 years)
    - b. The Men’s March Against Violence.
  5. **Challenges:**
    - a. Lack of funding for the commission to fulfill its goals and mission according to the State Statute.
    - b. Exploring the feasibility for the commission to host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual “National Partnership for Community Leadership International Fatherhood Conference” in June 2017. The Commission would need \$75,000 to host the conference.
    - c. Recruitment of commissioners to fill vacancies.
    - d. Hiring a half time Administrative Assistant.