



**Family Court of the First Circuit – THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAI‘I**  
 RONALD T.Y. MOON KAPOLEI COURTHOUSE • 4675 KAPOLEI PARKWAY • KAPOLEI, HAWAI‘I 96707-3272

**CHRISTINE E. KURIYAMA**  
 SENIOR JUDGE

**RONALD G. JOHNSON**  
 CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

**DISTRICT FAMILY JUDGES**  
**REBECCA A. COPELAND**  
**BRIAN A. COSTA**  
**JESSI L.K. HALL**  
**DYAN M. MEDEIROS**  
**KEVIN T. MORIKONE**  
**BODE A. UALE**  
**KRISTINE Y. YOO**

October 19, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: ALL PERSONS UTILIZING THE CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES

FROM: THE SENIOR FAMILY COURT JUDGES

*Christine E. Kuriyama*  
/s/ CHRISTINE E. KURIYAMA  
 CHRISTINE E. KURIYAMA  
 Senior Judge, First Circuit

*Robert D.S. Kim*  
/s/ ROBERT D.S. KIM  
 ROBERT D.S. KIM  
 Senior Judge, Third Circuit

*Richard T. Bissen Jr.*  
/s/ RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.  
 RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.  
 Senior Judge, Second Circuit

*Randal Valenciano*  
/s/ RANDAL G.B. VALENCIANO  
 RANDAL G.B. VALENCIANO  
 Senior Judge, Fifth Circuit

RE: 2020 CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES (Effective November 1, 2020)

Section 576D-7(a) of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (2010) provides that “[T]he Family Court, in consultation with the [Child Support Enforcement] agency, shall promulgate guidelines to establish the amount of child support when an order for support is sought or being modified under this chapter.”

Attached are the 2020 Hawai‘i Child Support Guidelines (“Guidelines”) with five (5) appendices:

- |              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| APPENDIX A-1 | CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES WORKSHEET |
| APPENDIX A-2 | EXTENSIVE TIME-SHARING WORKSHEET   |
| APPENDIX A-3 | EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES FORM     |
| APPENDIX B   | TABLE OF INCOMES                   |
| APPENDIX C   | CHECKLIST OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION |

In consultation with Lynette J. Lau, Administrator of the Hawai‘i Child Support Enforcement Agency, the Family Courts of Hawai‘i have adopted these attached Guidelines. These Guidelines will be effective November 1, 2020, and will supersede all prior guidelines and amendments. These 2020 Guidelines will apply statewide, to all divorce, paternity, and other proceedings involving child support orders entered on or after November 1, 2020, in both the Family Courts and the Office of Child Support Hearings (“OCSH”). Prior to November 1, 2020, parties may stipulate to the application of these 2020 Guidelines.

The 2020 Guidelines are grounded in applicable case law, statutes, and rules. The 2020 Guidelines continue to emphasize the needs of the children, the fair apportionment of costs between parents, and the increase in the children’s standard of living commensurate with the actual incomes of their parents. When applicable, policy considerations were determined in favor of the children’s needs, fairness, practicality and common sense. Special consideration is placed on making the instructions understandable to self-represented litigants or non-attorneys. As a result, minor grammatical changes were made throughout the 2020 Guidelines to simplify the language.

Given the enactment of the 2018 Tax Reform Bill, the 2020 Guidelines updates all figures driving the child support calculations through 2018 as follows:

- Base Primary Support The base primary support is \$415.00 [monthly difference between 1 and 2-person household per the 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines (“FPG”)]. This is an increase of \$30 from the 2014 Guidelines (previously \$385).
- Minimum Child Support The minimum child support amount is \$83.00. This is 20% of the base primary support of \$415.00. This is an increase of \$6 from the 2014 Guidelines (previously \$77).
- Standard of Living Adjustment (“SOLA”) Income SOLA income is gross income minus \$1,163.00. The \$1,163.00 is the monthly amount of a 1-person household per the FPG ( $\$13,960 \div 12$ ). This is an increase of \$61.00 from the 2014 Guidelines (previously \$1,102.00).
- Self-Support (Set Aside) Amount The self-support figure is \$900.00. It is the monthly amount of a 1-person household per the 2018 FPG of \$1,163 less 2018 federal, state, and FICA taxes per the Table of Incomes for a parent earning \$1,163 per month. (1-person household per the FPG). This is an increase of \$60 from the 2014 Guidelines (previously \$840).
- High Income Earners State and Federal tax rates are updated through January 1, 2018 in paragraph III.D., relating to “Individuals Employed by Others With Income Over \$13,000 Per Month.”
- Self-Employed Individuals The calculation of income for Self-Employed Individuals include the updated 2018 SOLA Income and Self-Support Amount.

Further, the 2020 Guidelines addresses the requirements of the “Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs” (“Final Rule”) located at 45 C.F.R. § 302.56. The Final Rule mandated changes for child support guidelines. The goal of these changes is to increase reliable child support for children by setting child support orders based on the noncustodial parent’s earnings, income, or other evidence of ability to pay. The 2020 Guidelines incorporate the Final Rule by:

- Taking into consideration the non-custodial parent’s earnings, income, other evidence of ability to pay, and basic subsistence needs by incorporating a self-support reserve;
- Requiring that, if a parent’s income is imputed, then the parent’s specific circumstances must be considered;
- Requiring that every order for support require either parent, or both, to provide private or public health insurance and/or cash medical support for the child;
- Providing that incarceration may not be treated as voluntary unemployment in establishing or modifying support orders;
- Requiring specific findings if there is a deviation from the presumptive amount of child support; and
- Requiring that future Child Support Guidelines will be reviewed to comply with the Final Rule, 45 CFR 302.56(h).

In requiring the consideration of additional factors relating to the situation of the parents, child support amounts established pursuant to the guidelines are intended to be more reliable, result in less conflict between the parents, and improve collection of child support.