



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

**Brandon M. Kimura**  
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2020

**Via electronic submission**

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

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

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

Pursuant to Section 607.56, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), 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 2019-2020.

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 an electronic copy 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 808-539-4896, 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

Attachment

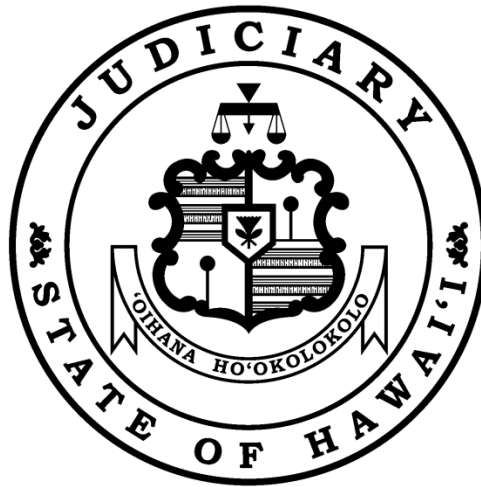
c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library  
Office of the Clerk, Hawaii State Senate  
Office of the Clerk, Hawaii House of Representatives

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
2021 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:**

**The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

**December 2020**

## **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. On May 2, 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 and 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.

## Parent Education Programs

Each circuit administers its 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 Tuesday of odd-numbered months. Kaua'i's Kids First Program is held on the second Wednesday of the month at Pu'uhoonua Kaulike Building in Lihu'e.

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic caused unprecedented interruptions across the State of Hawai'i. The Kids First Program and other court programs were suspended temporarily until alternate programming could be developed. During the month of April, Kids First O'ahu created innovative online programming from scratch using the recently updated Kids First website as a platform. The online program launched in May of 2020 and has since been utilized by families on O'ahu. The online program includes pre-recorded presentations by Family Court Judges and Kids First licensed psychologists. The judges speak to parents about what to expect in Family Court and the presenters talk to parents about ways to minimize risks during the divorce or separation process. The programming also includes *The Purple Family* film, as well as a presentation by a licensed psychologist and interactive activities for children. Parents are asked complete a feedback form and encouraged to ask questions, which are then forwarded to Kids First staff and licensed psychologists. In June of 2020, Maui and Kaua'i resumed in-person programming. However, as COVID numbers increased, Maui began using the online platform and developed online programming materials for families in October. Classes have been suspended indefinitely on Hawai'i Island.

<b>FY 2019-2020 Cases by Circuit</b>	<b>Divorce</b>	<b>Paternity</b>	<b>Civil Union</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>
First (O`ahu)	3,772	1,183	4	4,959
Second (Maui, Moloka`i, Lana`i)	445	159	0	604
Third (Hilo)	292	183	0	475
Third (Kona)	232	91	0	323
Fifth (Kaua`i)	202	42	0	44
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,943</b>	<b>1,658</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6,605</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 3,772 new divorce cases (72% of state total) and 1,183 paternity filings (71% 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, four civil union divorces were filed on O'ahu (100% of state total).

Statewide, 75 divorce education classes were held serving a total of 6,875 individuals (4,004 parents and 2,871 children). In FY 2019-2020, Kids First O'ahu serviced a total of 4,977 individuals (2,885 adults and 2,092 children).

<b>FY 2019-2020 Attendance by Circuit</b>	<b>Adult Attendance</b>	<b>Children Attendance</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
First (O`ahu)	2,885	2,092	4,977
Second (Maui, Moloka`i, Lana`i)	524	320	844
Third (Hilo)	289	223	512
Third (Kona)	172	157	329
Fifth (Kaua`i)	134	79	213
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>6,875</b>

Statewide revenue during FY 2019-2020 totaled \$113,966, which includes an interest amount of \$7,866. Total expenses were \$110,548.

The Parent Education Special Fund began collecting filing fee surcharges and donations beginning July 1, 1997. The attached financial report reflects the twenty-third 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 2019-2020

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNTS				
		FIRST CIRCUIT	SECOND CIRCUIT	THIRD CIRCUIT	FIFTH CIRCUIT	TOTAL
<u>REVENUES</u>						
0288	INTEREST	7,866				7,866
0763	SURCHARGE	77,200	12,950	10,900	5,050	106,100
	TOTAL REVENUES	85,066	12,950	10,900	5,050	113,966
<u>OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES &amp; ENCUMBRANCES</u>						
2902	SECURITY SERVICES	5,842	4,033	0	2,708	12,583
3204	DUPLICATING SUPPLIES	1,248				1,248
3209	OTHER STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	86				86
3301	FOOD SUPPLIES	3,383			734	4,117
3901	PRINTING AND BINDING	671				671
4102	CAR MILEAGE - OTHERS	733				733
4401	TRANS OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES					0
4501	SUBSISTENCE OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES					0
4601	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - EMPLOYEES					0
5503	OTHER RENTALS (PARKING PASS)	200				200
6619	OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE					0
7131	INTERPRETER FEES	546				546
7198	OTHER SERVICES ON FEE BASIS	42,881	15,000	14,063	7,500	79,444
7204	SPECIAL FUND ASSESSMENT (ACT 34, SLH 1964)	9,270				9,270
7205	TRAINING COSTS AND REGISTRATION FEES	1,650				1,650
	TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	66,510	19,033	14,063	10,942	110,548