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SCMF-23-0000343

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

In the Matter of the
RURAL PATERNITY ADVOCATE PILOT PROJECT IN THE THIRD CIRCUIT

ORDER EXTENDING THE PILOT PROJECT
(By: Recktenwald, C.J., McKenna, Eddins, Ginoza, and Devens, JJ.)

On May 15, 2023 this court established the Rural Paternity Advocate Pilot Project in the Third Circuit allowing a qualified paralegal under the supervision of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i (Legal Aid) to provide legal assistance to clients on family court issues related to paternity, child custody and visitation (Pilot Project).

On February 7, 2025, Legal Aid submitted a Final Report and Recommendations on the Pilot Project, requesting to extend it.

On March 25, 2025, the Access to Justice Commission submitted a letter supporting the Pilot Project.

It is hereby ordered:

A. The Pilot Project shall be extended to June 30, 2028. In all other respects, the Pilot Project authorized by the May 15, 2023 "Order Establishing a Rural Paternity Advocate Pilot Project in the Third Circuit" remains in effect.

B. On or before January 31, 2028, the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i shall submit a Second Report on the Pilot Project's performance and whether permanent implementation is desired.

C. A copy of the Second Report shall be served on the Access to Justice Commission (AJC) and the Hawai'i State Bar Association (HSBA) for comment, and the AJC and HSBA may submit any comments on the program to the court within 60 days after service. Legal Aid, AJC or HSBA may request an extension of these deadlines for good cause.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, May 28, 2025.

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald

/s/ Sabrina S. McKenna

/s/ Todd W. Eddins

/s/ Lisa M. Ginoza

/s/ Vladimir P. Devens

