

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Hawaii

December 2007

The AARP Foundation, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data, programs, and public policies. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from the website at www.grandfactsheets.org. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In Hawaii....

- 38,051 children live in grandparent-headed households (12.9% of all the children in the state). There are another 4,128 children living in households headed by other relatives (3.4% of all the children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in Hawaii, 13,814 are living there without either parent present.
- 14,029 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them (3,260 in Honolulu): 17% of these grandparents are Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; 8% are Hispanic/Latino; 40% are Asian; and 14% are White. 22% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 60% are under the age of 60; 11% live in poverty.
- Additional data on grandparents raising children are available from the United States Census at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t17.html>

Programs That Can Help

EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing (Effective Planning and Innovative Communication)

Contact: Arlynn Howell Livingston, Executive Director
Phone: 808-838-1261
Email: alivingston@epicohana.org
Web: www.epicohana.info/
Service area: Statewide



EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing (cont.)

Services offered:

- Provides Family Group Conferences to assist families and Child Welfare Services in making decisions concerning children, including foster custody placements, permanency decisions, guardianship, adoption
- Free legal services to kinship caregivers for adoption, guardianship and powers of attorney

Foster Family Programs (FFP) of Hawaii

Contact: Linda Santos
Phone: 808-521-9531
Email: lsantos@FFPHawaii.org
Web: <http://www.ffphawaii.org/>
Service area: Honolulu and Hilo

Services offered:

- Training
- Warm line for telephone support and referral - 808 545-1130 (Oahu); 1-866-545-0882 (Toll free on Neighbor Islands)
- Support groups
- Transition services for families and youth

Hi'i Na Kupuna Grandparents Coalition

Contact: John A. H. Tomoso
Phone: 808-270-7350
Email: John.Tomoso@mauicounty.gov
Service area: Maui, Molokai and Lanai Islands in Maui County

Services offered:

- Family Caregiver Support Program – Maui County Office on Aging
 - Information and referrals available at 808-270-7774
 - Maui 808-270-7774; Hana 808-248-8833; Lana'I 808-565-7114; Moloka'I 808-553-5241; Lahaina 808-661-2387
- Support groups; call 808-270-7350 for details

Na Tutu (Grandparents)

Sponsoring Organizations: Hawaii AARP, University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service, Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division, Parents and Children Together

Contact: Jacqueline T. Chong, Chair
Phone: 808-239-8908
Email: chongj001@hawaii.rr.com
Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Advocacy on kinship care-related policy and service initiatives
- Support group facilitated by licensed social worker

Na Keiki Law Center

Sponsoring Organization: Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, Consumer Lawyers of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Appleseed Public Interest Law Center

Contact: Intake Services

Phone: 808-528-7046

Email: vlsh@vlsh.org

Web: www.vlsh.org

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Advice to kinship caregivers on establishing legal relationships with children they are raising
- Direct representation for caregivers
- Guardian Ad Litem representation of minors
- Referrals for pro bono counsel

Ohana Caregivers

Sponsoring Organization: University of Hawaii Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Manoa

Phone: 1-866-224-6839

Email: ohanacaregivers@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.hawaii.edu/ohanacaregivers>

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Research study on issues important to Ohana Caregivers – contact if you wish to participate

Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC)

Contact: Pat Urieff

Phone: 808-847-1302

Email: purieff@qlcc.org

Web: <http://www.qlcc.org/>

Service area: Statewide through nine offices

Services offered:

- Counseling and referral
- Support groups for grandparents and relatives raising children at Kauai, Maui, Hilo, Honolulu, and Windward `Oahu
- Individual, family and group services
- Mission is to support orphan and destitute children by working with partner organizations and the 'ohana (network of relatives) to strengthen families and develop resilient children

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)

Sponsoring Organization: Hawaii Executive Office on Aging and the
Hawaii Caregiver Coalition

Contact: Wes Lum

Phone: 808-586-7319

Email: wes.lum@doh.hawaii.gov

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Advocates for public policy changes such as medical and educational consent, grandfamily housing, visitation rights, adoption assistance

Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) - Waianae

Contact: Rosanna Evers

Address: 858 2nd St, Pearl City, HI 96782

Phone: 808-456-4490

Email: REVERSWMSW@aol.com

Service area: Waianae

Services offered:

- Support group for kinship caregivers

Tutu and Me (Grandparent and Me)

Contact: Gail Omoto

Phone: 808-237-6641

Email: gail@tutuandme.org

Web: <http://www.tutuandme.org/>

Service area: 6 sites on O'ahu and 2 sites on the Big Island

Services offered:

- Traveling pre-school mobile outreach to Native Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian grandparents raising children – prepares children for school success
- Referrals to health and social services

Tutu's House (Grandparent's House)

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Future

Contact: Dana Moody

Address: Kamuela Business Center, 64-1032 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Kamuela, HI 96743

Phone: 808-885-6777

Email: tutus@tutushouse.org

Web: <http://www.tutushouse.org/>

Service area: Statewide

Services offered:

- Lending library on parenting topics
- Access to the Internet
- Periodic kinship care support groups

Tutus in Control

Sponsoring Organization: Hawaii Family Services, The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Contact: Kauai Teixeira

Phone: 808-696-3482

Email: kauai_tex@hotmail.com

Contact: Shannon Kaaekuahiwi

Phone: 808-696-3482

Email: skhonu@excite.com

Service area: Waianae

Services offered:

- Support sessions (child care and youth activities provided)
- Educational services with local speakers
- Recreational activities for families
- Respite care
- Individual counseling and advocacy services

Children in Foster Care

State child welfare agencies sometimes place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Most state agencies call these placements “kinship care.”

Numbers – State Fiscal Year 2007

- 4,005 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the Hawaii Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch (during fiscal year 2007; about 2,100 children in foster care at any point in time)
- About 36% of these children were placed with relatives.

Preferences

- State policy requires that kinship care be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for an abused or neglected child.

Kinship care licensing

- Same licensing standards and training requirements as non-kin foster parents.
- Same foster care payment rate.

Permanency Assistance Program/Subsidized Guardianship

- Ongoing permanency assistance payment to kin and non-kin who become legal guardians of a child in the foster care system for whom adoption or a return to biological parents is not possible.
- Permanency assistance payment is the same as foster care payment.
- Contact: Lee Dean
 - Phone: 803-586-5704
 - Email: ldean@dhs.hawaii.gov

Hui Ho'omalua-Partners In Development Foundation (HH-PIDF)

- Private agency contracted by the Hawaii Department of Human Services to oversee a collaboration that provides foster/adoptive family recruitment, family searches, training, home studies, support and retention services.
 - Hui-PIDF provides general license recruitment, training and home studies
 - Phone: 808-441-1117 or 1-888-879-8970
 - Email: hui@pidfoundation.org
 - Web: www.pidfoundation.org
 - Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) provides child-specific (kin/relatives) training, home studies, family searches
 - Phone: 808-527-4914
 - Web: www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org
 - Foster Family Programs of Hawaii (FFP) provides support and retention services such as the warm line, support groups, ongoing training, parent-to-parent mentoring, etc.
 - Phone: 808-545-1130 or 1-866-545-0882
 - Web: www.ffphawaii.org

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

- Contact: Judith Wilhoite, Executive Director
 - Phone: 808-522-1016 or 1-877-775-4400
 - Email: info@hawaiifosterparent.org
 - Web: www.hawaiifosterparent.org/

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody.

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their relative caregivers through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Phone: 808-643-1643
 - Web: www.state.hi.us/dhs/self-sufficiency

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps.
 - Phone: 808-643-1643
 - Web: www.state.hi.us/dhs/self-sufficiency

Health Insurance

- Relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Hawaii's Medicaid and QUEST programs.
 - Phone: 808-587-3521
 - Web: www.med-quest.us

Benefits QuickLINK

- Screens you and/or the children you are raising for 15 major public benefits for older adults and families with children
 - Web: www.aarp.org/quicklink

Other Benefits – child care, disabilities, special education, older adult benefits, etc.

- Children’s Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits
 - Phone: 202-662-3568
 - Web: www.childrensdefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

Laws change and are subject to different interpretations. These general descriptions are not intended as legal advice in any particular situation.

Educational Consent (Section 1, Chapter 555, Hawaii Revised Statutes)

- Allows primary relative caregiver to give educational consent to minor children

Medical Consent (Section 1, Chapter 577, Hawaii Revised Statutes)

- Allows primary relative caregiver to consent to primary and preventive medical and dental care, diagnostic testing and other medically necessary health care and treatment
- Requires notarized affidavit of consent from the child’s parents

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