



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 5, 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 07-01

TO: All State Department Heads

SUBJECT: Foster Parent Leave for Licensed Foster Parents of Abused and Neglected Children

There are approximately 2,100 children in a given day who are under foster care placement by the Department of Human Services (DHS) pursuant to the Child Protective Act, Chapter 587, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, due to abuse and/or neglect or suspected abuse and/or neglect. Abused and neglected children in foster care have a critical need to make connections with nurturing adults because of their maltreatment and because their own families are in crisis. They require a safe, stable, and nurturing home until they can either safely reunite with their parent(s) or are placed with permanent caretakers. Like all children and young people, foster children deserve and benefit from positive relationships with caring adults. It is our hope, therefore, that families in Hawai'i will continue to participate in the State's foster care program for abused and neglected children. For more information on the DHS Foster Care program, please visit the DHS website at:

http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/Foster

Foster parents who open their homes and hearts and offer help to abused and neglected children play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect. Such foster parents may oftentimes be involved in making critical life decisions for the child and may find themselves spending a considerable amount of time in Family Court. It is the Administration's intent to support State employees who are providing such valuable services in their roles as foster parents and to encourage awareness of the foster parent program.

In recognition and support of the valuable role foster parents play in building brighter futures for Hawai'i's abused and neglected children, effective immediately, State employees who are licensed foster parents with a foster child or children under DHS' placement responsibility pursuant to Chapter 587, HRS, may be granted up to eight (8) hours of administrative leave per calendar year to attend Family Court hearings regarding their foster child or children, provided their absence does not adversely interfere with the operations of their work unit.

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Each department head shall ensure that the granting of time off for Family Court hearings is done in a fair and equitable manner, is not disruptive to operations, and is properly documented. The Departments of Human Services and Human Resources Development shall be responsible for overseeing the fair and equitable implementation of this policy.

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