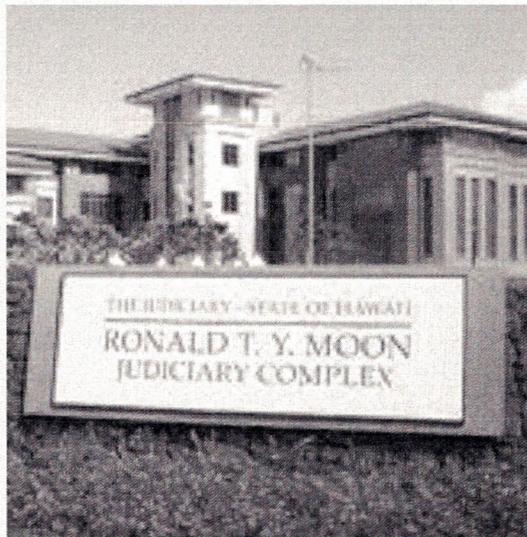


## MISSION STATEMENT

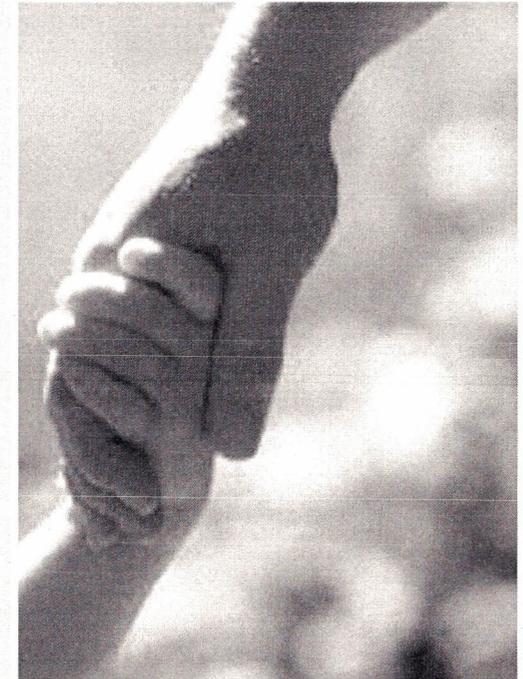
“The Hawai‘i Zero to Three Court seeks to provide maltreated infants and toddlers who are involved with the child welfare system with expeditious permanency through the collaborative teamwork of dedicated professionals, caregivers, and service providers focusing on each individual case and striving to create hope in families by supporting them, believing in them, and providing opportunities that encourage their potential for positive change.”



## HAWAII ZERO TO THREE COURT

Family Court of the First Circuit  
Kapolei Judiciary Complex  
4675 Kapolei Parkway  
Kapolei, Hawai‘i 96707-3272  
(808) 954-8322  
[mike.k.piena@courts.hawaii.gov](mailto:mike.k.piena@courts.hawaii.gov)

## HAWAI‘I ZERO TO THREE



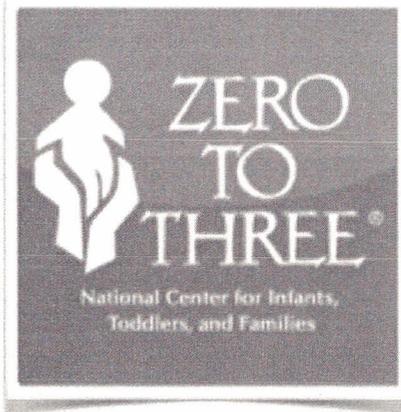
‘A‘ohe ipu ‘ōpio e ‘ole ka mimino  
i ka lā

*No immature gourd can withstand  
withering in the sun.*

No child can thrive without the  
love, nurturing, and guidance from  
an adult.

Mary Kawena Puku‘i





### THE NEED

- ❖ In 2009, children under twelve months old were the largest group of children placed into foster care in Hawai'i.
- ❖ Infants and toddlers in foster care are at risk for: poor physical health, developmental delay, and early learning difficulties.

### NATIONAL RESEARCH FINDINGS

- ❖ Children in Zero to Three cases exit foster care nearly three times as fast as the comparison group.
- ❖ Children exited foster care via reunification eight months faster than the control group.
- ❖ Children exited foster care via adoption ten months faster than the control group.

McCombs-Thornton, K., *Fostering A Permanent Home: A Mixed Methods Evaluation of the Zero to Three Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers Initiative* (2011)

## CORE COMPONENTS

*The Hawai'i Zero to Three Court facilitates collaboration among the court team, service providers, and the family to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers, while respecting the family's cultural values.*



### INTENSIVE JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT

- ❖ Monthly court reviews
- ❖ Designated court team members

### CHILD-FOCUSED SERVICES

- ❖ Close monitoring for all children in the family
- ❖ Assessment of each individual child's needs, ensuring referrals are made to address the child's:
  - ❖ medical needs
  - ❖ developmental needs
  - ❖ emotional needs
- ❖ Promoting healthy attachments and bonding
  - ❖ Increased parent-child contact through visitation which may lead to increased likelihood of reunification, reduce the time in out-of-home care, and promote healthy attachments

