



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

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**HAWAII CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
ANNOUNCES DEBIT CARD PROGRAM FOR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) has announced a new debit card program for the disbursement of child support payments to custodial parents.

The debit card program is part of CSEA's ongoing effort to streamline disbursement of child support payments to custodial parents. In 2009, the Department of the Attorney General proposed, and the Legislature approved, the use of electronic payments. This new law became effective on June 12, 2009, as part of Act 115, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009. Electronic payments will allow custodial parents to receive their money more quickly, safely, and efficiently. In addition, electronic payments will save the State approximately \$130,000 per year in costs associated with printing and mailing paper checks.

The debit card option is intended for custodial parents who do not have a bank account or who have not previously signed up for direct deposits into their bank account. Custodial parents who presently receive payments by check were asked to choose between the debit card option and the direct deposit option by September 30, 2009. Those who did not make a selection by that date will receive a debit card.

CSEA will begin issuing the cards on November 9, 2009. The cards will be issued as U.S. Bank Reliacard Visa debit cards.

Custodial parents who receive a debit card may request a change to direct deposit at any time. The change takes about approximately three weeks to complete.

CSEA issued 42,388 payments to custodial parents in September 2009. Of this number, 18,984 payments were disbursed by direct deposit and 23,404 payments were disbursed by check.

(more)

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CSEA is a division of the Department of the Attorney General. CSEA provides child support services that include establishing child support orders, including paternity establishment; establishing and enforcing medical support obligations; reviewing orders for possible modification; enforcing child support orders; receiving, recording, and disbursing support payments; and maintaining an accounting record of all transactions related to court or administrative orders for support.

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For more information, contact:
Garry Kemp
Administrator
Child Support Enforcement Agency
(808) 692-7000
hawaii.gov/ag/csea