

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

February 1, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1081 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.**

Hearing: February 4, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the administration measure of the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR).

PURPOSE: This bill transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience to the Department of Human Resources Development on June 29, 2025. Creates a wellness and resilience advisory board. Updates the Office of Wellness and Resilience functions.

DHS agrees that the transfer to the Department of Human Resource Development (DHRD) is appropriate as DHRD provides services, including staff training, to all departments. DHRD is the ideal place for OWR's mission to transform Hawaii into a trauma-informed state through amongst other things, technical assistance and training.

The DHS Director or designee will continue its work with OWR as a member of the Wellness & Resilience Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S.BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of H.B. 1081
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE**

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

February 04, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 329

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** H.B.1081, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience. H.B.1081 proposes to transfer the OWR to Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) on June 29, 2025, representing a strategic alignment that would enhance both OWR and DHRD's effectiveness.

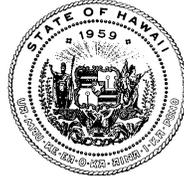
Governor Josh Green, M.D.'s February 2024 Executive Order reinforcing Hawaii's commitment to becoming a trauma-informed state makes this recommended transfer particularly timely. DHRD's established cross-departmental infrastructure provides the ideal platform for implementing trauma-informed practices throughout state government. Review of Departmental priorities demonstrates significantly stronger operational synergies with DHRD, particularly regarding workforce development and wellness initiatives.

Data from the recent Hawai'i Quality of Life and Well-Being Dashboard reveals a need to enhance employee recruitment and retention and workplace wellness across state departments. Housing OWR within DHRD will enable more efficient, widespread implementation of such initiatives (e.g., training opportunities, supervisor supports and workforce wellness) and regularly cadenced assessment through existing administrative channels.

Finally, this transfer optimizes state resources without compromising OWR's core functions. The Office will maintain its vital community partnerships, listening and feedback sessions, and program enhancement initiatives--essential elements of our work to date. These community connections remain critical for understanding the needs in the community, how they might impact policies for both state employees and the broader public we serve and continue to create relationships to partner and enhance the State's work.

The proposed transfer represents both a strategic alignment and fiscally responsible approach to expanding OWR's positive impact on state operations. We are grateful for the Committee's support on ensuring OWR can fulfill its mission on making Hawai'i a trauma-informed state.

Tia L. R. Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Director, Office of Wellness and Resilience
Office of the Governor



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY**

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1081
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

REP. LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 4, 2025

Room Number: 329

1 **Department Testimony: Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports
2 HB1179, which Transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of
3 Human Resources Development (DHRD) on June 29, 2025. Creates a wellness and resilience
4 advisory board. Updates the Office of Wellness and Resilience functions.

5

6 The State of Hawaii leads the nation with the creation of a governmental body tasked to to
7 strengthen our state service systems, using hope-centered principles to create a trauma-informed
8 Hawai'i. DOH concurs that the attaching OWR to DHRD will create a strategic alignment that
9 meets the mandate of strengthening state service systems to make Hawai'i a trauma-informed
10 state. DHRD's established cross-departmental infrastructure, as well as being the hub of training
11 and workforce-wide initiatives regarding the entire state workforce, provides an ideal platform
12 for implementing trauma-informed trainings, policy and practices statewide.

13

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2025

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Human Services &
Homelessness

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 1081 RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

Purpose of Bill: Transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience to the Department of Human Resources Development on June 29, 2025. Creates a wellness and resilience advisory board. Updates the Office of Wellness and Resilience functions.

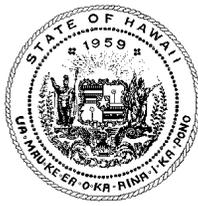
Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is writing to provide support on HB 1081, which would transition the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Resource Development (DHRD) and create a Wellness and Resilience advisory board.

The OWR's core mission is to strengthen state service systems and advance Hawai'i's progress toward becoming a trauma-informed state. While deferring to DHRD, the Department believes that DHRD, with its established cross-departmental infrastructure and its role as the central hub for training and workforce development initiatives across the entire state government, offers the ideal environment to achieve this goal. This strategic alignment will allow the OWR to leverage the DHRD's existing platform to effectively implement trauma-informed trainings, policies, and practices on a statewide scale, reaching all levels of the state workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support on HB 1081.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1081
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

by
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & via Videoconference

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 1081, which proposes to transfer the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) on June 29, 2025. The measure also creates a wellness and resilience advisory board and updates the Office of Wellness and Resilience functions.

On February 20, 2024, the Governor signed Executive Order 24-01 declaring Hawai'i as a trauma-informed state. The purpose of this executive order is to require all state departments to collaborate and partner with the OWR to integrate trauma-informed care principles, such as safety, transparency and peer support, into our workplaces and services.

Through these partnerships, OWR strives to strengthen state systems through the implementation of trauma-informed principles across agencies through organizational assessments, training, and other trauma-informed care efforts. OWR's mission strategically aligns with DHRD's cross-departmental infrastructure on workforce development and improvement of recruitment and retention of state employees.

The DCR appreciates the on-going partnership with OWR to implement a pilot program to train employees in trauma-informed principles. This pilot program will train staff to identify and address signs and symptoms of trauma experienced by both staff and persons in our custody and care. DCR believes application of this training will increase staff well-being, and reduce the social isolation often experienced by justice involved individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1081.



STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'aina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 1081 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

Committee: HSH
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in support of H.B. No. 1081, an Administration bill that transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) for administrative purposes only, establishes an advisory board, and updates the functions of the office.

This transfer will enhance OWR's ability to support state employees across all departments, streamline the implementation of wellness programs, and help ensure consistent application of trauma-informed practices throughout state government.

EOEL appreciates the work of OWR to strengthen our state service systems and support the wellness and resilience of our communities. We will participate in the new Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board established by this bill and look forward to continuing our collaboration with OWR to integrate trauma-informed and responsive practices in our early learning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments in support of this Administration bill.

February 2, 2025

To: Chair Marten, and members of the Human Services and Homelessness Committee

From: Laurie Arial Tochiki, Co-Chair Mālama 'Ohana Working Group

Re: Testimony in support of HB1081

I support HB 1081 Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR). The bill proposes to transfer the Office of Wellness and Resilience from the Governor's Office to the Department of Human Resources and Development. The bill also authorizes OWR to carry out Trauma Informed training for other state departments.

In 2023 the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group was established to develop recommendations to establish a child welfare system that is trauma-informed, sustains a community-based partnership, and responds to the needs of children and families in the system and the community. I serve as Co-Chair of the working group. The report emphasizes that Hawai'i's child welfare system is fragmented, with agencies working in silos rather than in a coordinated and unified way. This lack of collaboration creates inefficiencies, weakens oversight, and ultimately harms children and families. Our Working Group was established under the administration of OWR, which allowed us to depend upon the incredible expertise and the ability to work across the system. Our working group did not receive state funding, but with OWR support and private partnership with the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Casey Family Programs, we were able to carry out our duties. This could not have been accomplished if the working group had been administratively embedded in the Department of Human Services.

The working group has completed its work and a full copy of the report can be found at www.malamaohana.net, however the working group is still subject to sunshine law until adjournment sine die. To be clear, the working group will not be making further decisions now that the report has been filed. The working group may meet during the session to provide information to the public about its report but will not make further decisions. Therefore, it is not allowed under sunshine law that more than two of us meet to discuss the report, or next steps. Therefore, I am testifying as a concerned citizen and speaking for the content of the report that was approved by the working group.

Our first task as the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group was to establish an approach to our work by cultivating and modeling the kind of listening and concern that we needed for our working group and modeling the type of child welfare system we hope for. From there, we began with the intense work of interviewing individuals, conducting

conversations, and holding group discussions in Permitted Interaction Groups, which helped shape our initial understanding. We then conducted eleven community listening sessions throughout the state, gathering stories and ideas from each community we visited. OWR was the ideal administrator for our work, and at each step of the way we realized the importance of that alignment. Our working group had its first meeting right after the Maui fires. OWR was called upon to immediately attend to the crisis. Their work at that time, like our work in the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group illustrates how vital cross-system coordination is to our state.

What we heard:

1. No Single Agency Can Address Child Welfare Alone – The system involves Child Welfare Services (CWS), family courts, the Department of the Attorney General, law enforcement, health agencies, schools, and community service providers. However, these entities often operate independently instead of collaboratively.
2. Families Struggle to Navigate Bureaucracy – Because agencies do not always share information or work together, families face barriers in accessing services like housing assistance, mental health support, and substance abuse treatment.
3. Gaps in Services Due to Lack of Coordination – Many families fall through the cracks because agencies do not communicate effectively, resulting in delays, duplicative efforts, and missed opportunities for intervention.
4. Inconsistent Policies Across Agencies – Policies governing child protection, legal processes, and social services are not always aligned, leading to contradictory approaches and confusion for families and service providers.
5. Need for a Shared Vision – The report stresses the importance of a unified, trauma-informed, culturally responsive approach that brings all agencies together to prioritize child and family well-being.

It is the kuleana of OWR to strengthen our state systems, and to ground all our collective work in the values and principles necessary to create a trauma-informed Hawai'i. This kuleana represents our best hope for a healthy and prosperous state in a time of turmoil and challenges. OWR must have the agility and the support it needs to lead this important mission. We understand that an office like OWR cannot remain administratively connected to the Governor's office indefinitely. It would be ideal to have OWR remain with the Governor for another year or two, but if a move is necessary then the Department of Human Resources Development is a more appropriate place because of its established cross-departmental infrastructure provides the ideal platform for implementing trauma-informed practices throughout state government. This bill represents a strategic alignment that would enhance both OWR and DHRD's effectiveness.

We are grateful for your support of the families and children in the child welfare system, and your efforts to find ways to improve the system.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1081
RELATING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE**

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii
Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:30am, CR 329 or via videoconference

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee

Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports HB 1081, which transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD), establishes a Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board, and updates the functions of OWR. This measure represents a strategic alignment that will enhance the effectiveness of both OWR and DHRD, ultimately strengthening state service systems to better serve the people of Hawaii.

As a community-based organization committed to fostering the well-being of Hawaii's most vulnerable individuals and families, Catholic Charities Hawaii recognizes the critical role of OWR in promoting a trauma-informed, hope-centered approach across state agencies. The responsibility of OWR—to strengthen service systems through trauma-informed principles—will be better realized within DHRD, whose established cross-departmental infrastructure provides an ideal platform for implementing these practices statewide.

By embedding trauma-informed policies within the state's human resources framework, this transition will ensure that government agencies are better equipped to support both employees and the communities they serve. The creation of a Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board will further enhance collaboration, accountability, and the integration of best practices across departments.

We urge the committee to pass this measure to strengthen Hawaii's commitment to resilience and well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1081. If you have any questions, please contact (808) 527-4813.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 527-4813 •





HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

Access to Independence
Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i
Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC `Ohana, Inc.
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui
Get Ready Hawai`i
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.
Hawai`i Children's Action
Network
Hawai`i Health & Harm
Reduction Center
Hawaii Island Community`
Health Center
Ho`ola Na Pua
Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i
Ka Hale Pomaika`i
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance
Lines for Life Youth Line
Maui Youth and Family Services
Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together
PHOCUSED
Piha Wellness and Healing
Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana
Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)
Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community
Center
The Catalyst Group

February 2, 2025

To: Senator Lisa Marten, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services and
Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1081 RELATING TO THE
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1081 Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

I serve as a member of the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. Over the past 3 years, the task force has developed a plan and strategies that will incorporate trauma-informed approaches to services provided to children, youth, and families.

HYSN supports moving the Office of Wellness and Resilience as a semi-autonomous body within the Department of Human Resources Management and establishing an advisory board as the successor the current Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. This will support our commitment to making Hawaii a trauma-informed staff and will benefit all of our children, youth, and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-1081

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:42:24 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danie Goya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on a matter central to our shared commitment to advancing a trauma-informed Hawai‘i. I am here to express support for the proposed realignment of the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR).

This strategic shift is critical to our kuleana of strengthening state service systems, ensuring that Hawai‘i becomes a beacon of hope-centered, trauma-informed care. DHRD's extensive cross-departmental infrastructure and its role as the hub for state workforce training and initiatives uniquely position it to implement trauma-informed practices across state government. By bringing OWR under DHRD, we can harness this infrastructure to coordinate better and integrate efforts that directly impact the wellness of our communities.

Key Points for Consideration:

- **Strengthening State Service Systems:** The OWR is tasked with fortifying our state service systems through hope-centered, trauma-informed approaches. This move is a direct reflection of our commitment to ensuring that every policy and program is responsive to the needs of those affected by trauma.
- **Strategic Alignment Enhances Effectiveness:** Realigning the OWR with DHRD is a strategic decision that enhances the operational effectiveness of both entities. It streamlines our efforts and consolidates expertise, ensuring that trauma-informed practices are prioritized and systematically integrated throughout state agencies.
- **Utilizing Established Infrastructure:** DHRD’s well-established, cross-departmental network is ideal for rolling out statewide trauma-informed initiatives. Its training and workforce development leadership will provide the necessary support and coordination to implement these practices efficiently and effectively.

In conclusion, the proposed transition of the Office of Wellness and Resilience to the Department of Human Resources Development is a thoughtful and proactive step toward creating a more resilient, trauma-informed state. This realignment will optimize our resources and reinforce our commitment to the wellness of all Hawai‘i residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Goya

Karen Worthington, Kula, HI 96790

February 3, 2025

To: Representative Marten, Chair, and Representative Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

From: Karen Worthington, Private Citizen

Re: **HB 1081**: Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329 and Videoconference, February 4, 2025, 9:30am

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten, Representative Olds, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1081, which transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) and establishes a wellness and resilience advisory board. This strategic realignment represents a significant opportunity to enhance the state's capacity to implement trauma-informed practices across all departments and agencies.

My name is Karen Worthington, and I am a children's law and policy attorney with a consulting business on Maui, Karen Worthington Consulting. I have worked extensively with Hawai'i state departments and nonprofit organizations that support children and families who exist at the margins of our society. The existence and work of OWR provides essential support for all the state agencies with which I work and the non-profit organizations that carry out their work through contracts.

Please pass HB 1081. The transfer of OWR to DHRD creates a powerful synergy that will strengthen our state's commitment to becoming trauma-informed. DHRD's established cross-departmental infrastructure and its central role in workforce development make it uniquely positioned to support OWR's mission. This alignment is particularly important as we work to integrate trauma-informed approaches throughout state government.

The placement of OWR within DHRD will enhance its ability to provide training and technical assistance to state agencies in implementing trauma-informed policies and practices. DHRD's existing relationships with all state departments and its expertise in professional development create natural pathways for OWR to fulfill its mandate of strengthening state service systems.

Furthermore, the establishment of a wellness and resilience advisory board will ensure diverse perspectives inform the development and implementation of trauma-informed practices. The board's composition, including representatives from various state departments, the judiciary, and community stakeholders, will facilitate comprehensive and culturally responsive approaches to building resilience across our state systems.

The recent Hawai'i Quality of Life and Well-Being Dashboard has demonstrated a need to enhance employee recruitment, retention and workplace wellness across state departments. Housing OWR within DHRD creates an efficient framework for implementing trauma-informed practices systematically across state government, benefiting both public servants and the communities they serve.

Karen Worthington, Kula, HI 96790

If you would like additional information related to my testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me at karen@karenworthington.com.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Karen Worthington