



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 29, 2020

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1986 – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES**

Hearing: January 30, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Education (DOE).

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill establishes a task force to develop trauma-informed approaches for the Department of Education. Appropriates funds.

This bill mandates DHS to lead a task force to develop a trauma-informed approach plan for the DOE and develop a plan of coordinated services based on a trauma-informed approach with an understanding, recognition, and responsiveness to the effects of trauma on education, absenteeism, and school completion including the secondary impact of trauma on school employees.

DHS recognizes the need for coordinated services to mitigate the trauma of students and their families in and out of schools so that students can focus on learning. DHS participates on several task forces and work groups that are addressing similar or related issues, including implementing trauma-informed practices.

While DHS will certainly support and participate with DOE as it becomes a trauma-informed and responsive agency, and with all due respect to the proponents of this measure, DOE is the appropriate agency to lead the development of a plan for DOE.

Importantly, DOE received a \$5,000,000 Trauma Recovery Project grant, *Ho'ōikaika*, to improve Hawaii's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) over five years. Administrative or other support to implement the grant should be directed to DOE if they require additional resources. Cross-division staff from the Office of Youth Services (OYS), Med-QUEST Division (MQD), and Child Welfare Services (CWS) are participating in execution of the grant with DOE. Focus should be on this collaborative effort.

DOE is also the lead of the Act 271 (SLH 2019) task force on which DHS participates. The Act 271 (SLH 2019) task force is to create a system for evaluating and assessing all children and those who are exhibiting emergent or persistent behaviors, academic challenges, or chronic absenteeism, and need appropriate supports and interventions accessible within the continuum of a multi-tiered system of supports.

DHS respectfully requests that additional time be given for the lessons learned and recommendations to emerge through the efforts currently being done through the Trauma Recovery Project, Act 271 (SLH 2019) task force, and other like work groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Human Services and Homelessness and
Lower and Higher Education
Thursday, January 30, 2020; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1986, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES.

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Woodson, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1986, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a Trauma-Informed Approach Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for administrative purposes to develop a trauma-informed approach plan for the Department of Education (DOE);
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to cover the expenses of the Task Force; and
- (3) Require the Task Force to report its plan, findings, and recommendations to the 2021 Legislature; and
- (4) Provide that the Task Force cease to exist on July 1, 2021.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The experience of trauma has widespread impacts on the lives of our citizenry. This often leads to or exacerbates mental illnesses, substance use and physical health conditions. Because of this, in a truly integrated whole health system of health care, effectively treating behavioral and physical health conditions must involve the impact of trauma.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1986
Thursday, January 30, 2020
Page 2

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of policy makers, health care providers, and government workers, the very services and systems designed to help people become healthy can be re-traumatizing. This is especially true in our public schools, where traumatized youths and their support groups may feel overwhelmed by bureaucracy and a lack of empathy that makes more often than no makes their situation worse.

This bill seeks to improve the quality of outcomes for youths impacted by trauma. It would require DHS and DOE to work together to develop a plan on how the State will provide essential educational services to especially vulnerable populations. We believe this is sound public policy and would like to thank the introducer of this bill for raising the Legislature's awareness on this issue and the importance it has on the development of Hawaii's youth.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of House Bill No. 1866.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:38:43 PM

Testimony for HSH on 1/30/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a health professional I support HB1986.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 1:55:35 PM

Testimony for HSH on 1/30/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Addressing trauma would be really important for students to recognize these signs. Many times students may not speak of their feelings and if the teachers or peers are seeing the symptoms they may be of some help.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 1:58:53 PM

Testimony for HSH on 1/30/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heath Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – which include factors such as abuse, neglect and other traumatic experiences – have a potentially long-lasting effect on children’s cognitive functioning and physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. Adopting a trauma informed approach will greatly benefit our keiki. Strong support for this measure.



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/30/2020
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Human Services &
Homelessness
House Lower & Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1986 RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a task force to develop trauma-informed approaches for the Department of Education. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 1986 and offers comments. This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) director to establish a task force to develop a trauma-informed approach plan.

Trauma-Informed/Trauma-Sensitive Education

Models, training, and technical support to develop trauma-sensitive programming are offered by the Department's state offices, complex areas, and schools for educators and the families they serve. There are various models and practices selected in response to the needs of the schools and communities.

Complex area and school initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai Complex Area and Hilo High School - Kristin Souers's Trauma Sensitive School Training;
- School-Based Behavioral Health - Diana Browning Wright's Trauma-Informed Practices;
- Select complex areas - Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Cadre with Diana Browning Wright, Aces and Trauma;
- Kau-Keaau-Paho Complex Area - The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) Trauma-Sensitive School model;
- Castle-Kahuku and Kalaheo-Kailua Complex Areas - Godwin Higa's Trauma Sensitive Awareness Training, Trauma-Sensitive School Focus Group with Community Partners; and
- Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea Complex Area - Kauai Resiliency Project.

Community initiatives, include but are not limited to:

- Hawaii Children's Action Network in partnership with Executive Office on Early Learning and the Department of Health (DOH) Family Health Services Division - Trauma Training and Support with Dr. Sarah Enos Watamura;
- Hawaii Youth Service Network sponsored by Family Courts - Trauma Training and Support; and
- DHS - Trauma training and support with Sharon Simms and Tia Roberts Hartsock.

In progress by state office:

- Ho'oikaika: Trauma Recovery Project (see below for more details);
- Trauma-Sensitive School Handbook and video module; and
- Trauma training and resource list for schools (available training and resources).

Ho'oikaika: Trauma Recovery USDOE Grant Project

In September 2019, the US Department of Education awarded \$5 million in federal demonstration grant funds to the Department to support students from low-income families who have experienced trauma that negatively affect their educational experience. The Department proposes four major strategies: 1) Strengthening core beliefs and mindset shifts toward trauma-sensitive schools focusing on empowerment, 2) Further developing the screening process to include behavior and/or social and emotional learning (SEL) screening, as well as a trauma-specific screening tool to strengthen Hawaii's MTSS, 3) Identifying at-risk and improving progress monitoring, and 4) Developing effective partnerships with stakeholder agencies and organizations.

Funds will be spent over five years, fifteen percent for training and administrative needs and eighty-five percent for direct trauma-specific therapy for identified students.

All Title I schools will be prioritized as participants of the project to address communities and students with the highest needs.

To accomplish the project goals, the Department convenes a multi-versed advisory committee with participants that span across the DOH, DHS, Family Courts, and community agencies. The advisory committee provides subject matter expertise and guidance related to the implementation of the project such as the criteria for the selection of schools, trauma-sensitive professional development plans, the screening process, appropriate trauma-specific interventions, family and cultural support plans, the billing process, a state-licensed provider list, and communication needs.

Technical assistance is provided by the NCSSLE, the organization commissioned by the US Department of Education, is included as part of the grant award.

Ho'oikaika: Trauma Recovery Grant Narrative:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YyiDi68_I1wd2HGX5Q6IK5AmIHkI9Dbb/view?usp=sharing

National Council for Behavioral Health's 2020-2021 Trauma-Informed, Resilience-Oriented Approaches Learning Community

The Department has been selected to participate in a nationwide trauma-informed learning community to equip the organization with tools, resources, skills, and contacts to address the impacts of trauma and to nurture resilience.

Given the Department's initiatives that are currently in place, we respectfully submit that amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes are not needed. However, the Department would

be most appreciative of additional resources to assist complexes and schools in delivering staff and student training and to expand ongoing efforts to engage families and promote community resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1986.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826



January 29, 2020

TO: Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 1986 – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES
Hearing Date: January 30, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes a task force to develop trauma-informed approaches for the Department of Education. Appropriates funds.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support the Intent

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of the intent of H.B. 1986.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

As we work to increase access to qualified early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must consider that every classroom should have a highly-qualified educator in it. A highly-qualified educator is one who can nurture our children with a trauma-informed lense.

The EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program targets our underserved and at-risk children – it is especially important that teachers are equipped to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. If not, what may result are increased instances of stress-induced behavior problems, inappropriate referrals to special education, and suspensions and expulsions. Nationally, suspensions and expulsions occur at a rate 3 times higher in public pre-K than in K-12 settings.

When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, these children who can benefit the most from early learning are rejected at an even earlier age and their families are left without options.

However, we note that we have a severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators. Especially because the Program targets our underserved and at-risk children, we work with the educators in the Program by arming them with the competencies to work with children who do not come from optimal backgrounds. We provide them with coaching and professional learning support, and work with school leadership on staffing so they are able to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. We also have a strong partnership with the University of Hawaii system to advance the critical work of building a pipeline of qualified early childhood educators for the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



LATE

HB 1986, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES

JANUARY 30, 2020 · HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE AND HOUSE LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE · CHAIRS
REP. JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA AND REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports and suggests an amendment for HB 1986, relating to trauma-informed approaches, which establishes a task force to develop trauma-informed approaches for the Department of Education.

Sex traffickers prey on our state's school children, often loitering around public school campuses to target our children. Traffickers are experts in observing and selecting their victims, and often infiltrate public schools by using students to recruit their peers. One of the largest child sex trafficking rings discovered on Hawai'i's shores was unearthed in 2014. It included 16 students, most whom were students at Mililani High School and Moanalua High School, two of our state's top performing schools.

We are one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking, for which childhood sexual abuse is frequently a precursor. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention services to 150 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 survivors in total. We are also a leading provider of anti-sexual-exploitation education, teaching over 10,000 students each year about the perils of sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade.

When we provide anti-trafficking instruction in the Department of Education schools, students report that themselves or someone they know are being or at risk of being trafficking at a 2:1 ratio—two victims for every class we teach. Teachers, in turn, frequently request information and assistance in meeting the needs of traumatized students and preventing their children from being ensnared by our state’s prolific slave trade. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn’t remember her own name.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. The average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation is 13-years-old, with 60 percent of sex trafficked children being under the age of 16. Approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments are operational in Hawai’i. An estimated 1,500-2,500 women and children are victimized by sex traffickers in our state annually. Over 110,000 advertisements for Hawai’i-based prostitution are posted online each year, a number that has *not* decreased with the recent shuttering of Backpage.com’s “adult services” section. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home.

With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent of report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence as such. As one underage victim—now a survivor—told IMUAlliance prior to being rescued, “I can’t be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I’m a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it.”

That said, we **urge you to uplift that the experiences of victim service providers that provide trauma-informed care to students by including “a representative from a sex abuse victim service provider that specializes in trauma-informed care” to the task force’s membership.** To stop slavery in Hawai’i, we must prevent victimization before it begins by advancing trauma-informed care and wraparound services for at-risk keiki.



LATE

HOUSE BILL 1986, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES

JANUARY 30, 2020 · HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE AND HOUSE LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE · CHAIRS
REP. JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA AND REP.
JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports and suggests an amendment for HB 1986, relating to trauma-informed approaches, which establishes a task force to develop trauma-informed approaches for the Department of Education.

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To stop slavery in Hawai'i, we must prevent victimization before it begins by advancing trauma-informed care and wraparound services for at-risk keiki.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 2:03:05 PM

Testimony for HSH on 1/30/2020 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha Heredia	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair Rep. Woodson, Vice Rep. Chair Hashem, and Rep. Vice Chair Quinlan, and esteemed Committee Members,

I support HB1986, as I worked as a teacher in some of the toughest neighborhoods in West Oakland, and Richmond, California, as well as an afterschool program leader with students from high-risk communities of Oahu such as Makaha, Waianae and Kalihi. I have noticed that being informed of how to navigate traumas involving students, both in a formal setting such as school, and informal setting in after school programming have had a great impact on me as an educator--knowing how to approach conversations with the youth, and understanding where they come from is important for the students to feel safe, heard and resilience.

I support HB1986 as it can only strengthen our school communities and ability to serve our youth.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia

Former STEM Educator