



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Vonnell Ramos, President
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Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

Bay Clinic
Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i
Big Island Substance Abuse
Council
Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Collins Consulting, LLC
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC `Ohana, Inc.
Family Programs Hawai`i
Family Support Hawai`i
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
Ho`ola Na Pua
Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i
Ka Hale Pomaika`i
Kahi Mohala
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance
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
PFLAG – Kona, Big Island
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

March 20, 2023

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 130/HR 131
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
ESTABLISH THE MALAMA OHANA WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY,
DESIGN, AND RECOMMEND TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES TO THE
STATE'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations supports HCR 130/HR 131 Requesting the Office of Wellness and Resilience Establish the Malama Ohana Working Group to Identify, Design, and Recommend Transformative Changes to the State's Child Welfare System

Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children and youth are consistently overrepresented in the Child Welfare System. Malama Ohana is a collaborative effort to identify the issues and needs of these children and families and develop culturally appropriate approaches to reduce overrepresentation.

Providing staffing support through the Office of Wellness and Resilience will support and enhance the initiative.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 130 & HR 131: RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

TO: House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Thursday, 3/23/2023 at 9:00 AM; CR 329 & via videoconference

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and Members, Committee on Human Services

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HCR 130 and HR 131**, which establishes the Malama Ohana Working Group under the Office of Wellness and Resilience. While we support this resolution bill, we strongly support SB295 and ask for your assistance in passing this bill. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving children, families, elders, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii has a long history of providing services for the child welfare system.

The problems that our children and families face need all of us to work together. Child Welfare Services and resources are stretched, especially on the neighbor islands. Services and resources are needed to deal with issues of domestic violence, substance use disorder, mental health issues, poverty and houselessness. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports this bill to establish and provide funding for the Malama Ohana Working Group. This group would provide an avenue for collaboration amongst community partners and most importantly includes those with lived experience.

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports the Office of Wellness and Resilience and their efforts to improve the child welfare system and the outcomes for the children and families in Hawaii. The collective efforts from all stakeholders will provide robust and meaningful recommendations for the child welfare system.

Please contact our Director of Advocacy and Community Relations, Shellie Niles if you have any questions.



HR-131

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:43:12 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/23/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen L Worthington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Human Services

Hearing on March 23, 2023, 9am

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 130 and HR 131, REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE ESTABLISH THE MALAMA OHANA WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY, DESIGN, AND RECOMMEND TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES TO THE STATE'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and Committee Members,

I write to share my strong support for establishing the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group within the Office of Wellness and Resilience. Because of the importance and urgent need for this work in Hawai'i, I ask that you create this work group through SB295 rather than through a resolution. At the same time, I support HCR 130 and HR 131 and urge you to vote yes on these resolutions. I also urge you to appropriate funds to the Office of Wellness and Resilience to support the work group.

The working group brings together child welfare service members and community servicing organizations with parents, children, resource caregivers and family members with lived experience in the child welfare system. As a consultant and Children's Policy Lawyer who has worked on improving child welfare systems in several states and at the national level, I believe this approach of establishing the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group is a unique, powerful, and effective way to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes to the Hawai'i child welfare system. I strongly support the collaboration of service providers with those they serve to improve the outcomes for children in the child welfare system.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this request. Please contact me at karen@karenworthington.com if I can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

Karen Worthington, JD, Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS)

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