

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB486
RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the Trauma Informed Care
3 Taskforce (TIC-TF) and the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR). DOH provides some
4 comments for consideration, but defers to the OWR.

5 Given that the TIC-TF has already been established, we suggest considering a conversion of the
6 TIC-TF to the Wellness and Resiliency Advisory Board (WRAB). The proposed scopes for the
7 TIC-TF and the WRAB are identical except for the TIC-TF to serve as an advisory board to the
8 OWR, and it appears that the legislative intent has been determined to attach the OWR to the
9 Department of Human Services. A sooner transition could help with the establishment the OWR
10 and potentially provide additional guidance during the OWR's initial formative years.

11 We also recommend that the chair of the WRAB be other than a State employee. With the plan
12 for the OWR to be an attached office rather than part of a department, there seems to be intent
13 for it to have independence. Having a State employee as the WRAB chair could seem in conflict
14 with the intended independence of another State entity. We propose that either all WRAB
15 members or only non-State employee members select a chair from among the non-State
16 employee members.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
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TOMMY JOHNSON
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Melanie Martin
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Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 486
RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and via Video Conference

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 486 which proposes to establish a trauma-informed care task force within the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a statewide framework for trauma-informed care and to provide other recommendations on how the State can implement best practices in trauma-informed care, including native Hawaiian cultural practices.

PSD will provide a representative to serve on this working group lead by the DOH; however, we ask the committee to consider any conflicts the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission or the chair's designee as a member of the task force may have as aligned with statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 486.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

February 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 486](#) – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

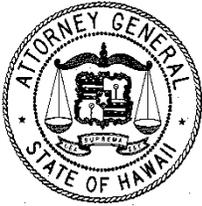
Hearing: February 15, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, provides comments, and defers to the Office of Wellness & Resilience.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the Department of Health. Requires the task force to develop a statewide framework for trauma-informed care and to provide other recommendations on how the State can implement best practices in trauma-informed care, including native Hawaiian cultural practices. Provides that the trauma-informed care task force shall serve as an advisory board for, and be administratively attached to, the office of wellness and resilience established in section 27-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Requires the task force to submit a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of each regular session.

DHS is a member of the trauma-informed care task force established by Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, that will cease on July 1, 2024. This measure will make the task force permanent and place it within the Office of Wellness & Resilience. DHS will continue to serve as a member of the task force.

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



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 486, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Michelle E. Nakata, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill amends chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add a new section to establish a trauma-informed task force, which is to be placed within the Department of Health (DOH) for administrative purposes. Page 1, lines 4-6. The bill also provides that the task force shall serve as an advisory board for, and be administratively attached to, the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR), which is established within the Office of the Governor by section 27-62, HRS. Page 5, lines 15-17.

Article V, section 6, of the Hawaii Constitution provides, in part:

All executive and administrative offices, departments and instrumentalities of the state government and their respective powers and duties shall be allocated by law among and within not more than twenty principal departments in such a manner as to group the same according to common purposes and related functions.

Because the task force and advisory board will be placed within the DOH, the attachment of the task force to the OWR may be subject to constitutional challenge. Additionally, the OWR is an office that is established on a temporary basis and for special purposes and not placed within any of the principal departments. To resolve this issue, we recommend deleting the wording at page 5, line 16, "and be administratively attached to". While the task force may still serve as an advisory board

for the OWR, this amendment would clarify that it is established within DOH, a principal department, for administrative purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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
Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

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

February 11, 2023

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 486 RELATED TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 486 Related to Trauma-Informed Care.

I serve as the non-profit representative on the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.

The Task Force is working whole heartedly to fulfill the mandates of the 2021 legislation. As we have identified the scope of work and initiated efforts to collect data, identify models of effective practice, and identify needs and resources, we recognize that the task is too large and complex to complete by the original sunset date.

The newly formed Office of Wellness and Resilience needs the diverse expertise that the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force members can provide.

We know that the effort to help children and families avoid adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and provide comprehensive, coordinated, culturally sensitive services to survivors of trauma will require a long-term commitment. This bill will ensure that the work of the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and the Office of Wellness and Resilience will be able to work together to incorporate trauma-informed approaches into government and nonprofit services.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0486, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the 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. 0486, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of Health to, among other things, create, develop and adopt a statewide framework for trauma-informed care and responsive practice;
- (2) Direct the Task Force to report to the Legislature annually; and
- (3) Specify that the sitting members of the Task Force established pursuant to Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, carry over to the Task Force established pursuant to this bill without being subject to Advise and Consent requirements.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0486
Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 8:30 a.m.
Page 2

The experience of trauma has widespread impacts on the lives of our citizenry. This often leads to or exacerbates mental illness, 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.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of policymakers, health care providers, and government workers, the very services and systems designed to help people become healthy can be re-traumatizing. This bill seeks to improve the quality of outcomes for persons impacted by trauma by establishing the framework for a statewide trauma-informed and responsive practice. Accordingly, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

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-486

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 6:21:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, & Committee Members:

Hawai‘i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) supports HB 486, which (1) establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the Department of Health and (2) requires the task force to develop a statewide framework for trauma-informed care and to provide other recommendations on how the State can implement best practices in trauma-informed care, including Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

HHHRC’s mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Belatti, Chair
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: HB486, relating to trauma-informed care
8:30 a.m., Feb. 15, 2023

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in SUPPORT of House Bill 486, relating to trauma-informed care.**

For the last two years, the trauma-informed care task force has been an important vehicle for change. It has brought together invested agencies and organizations to lay important foundation and set a vision for the future of trauma-informed care in the state. It has been inspiring to watch the varied and diverse membership build common language and purpose while look ahead to what's possible.

We support a trauma-informed task force continuing to provide advisory support to the Office of Wellness and Resilience. The representative task force thus far has ensured that individuals, families and communities that are often marginalized—intentionally or by circumstance—are included in their discussions. We welcome their continued support of the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify. **Please support HB486.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



HB486 Trauma Informed Care Task Force

[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS](#)

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouci, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Feb 15, 2023: 8:30 : Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports and Makes a Recommendation HB486.

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery services.

Recommendation:

Add HSAC representative since several agencies have extensive experience treating youth with substance abuse and trauma. Such an agency, having years of experience, would be helpful for how to improve services and systems.

Section 1 (a) (14) A member of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition who shall be invited by the Chairperson.

Behavioral health (substance use disorders and mental health disorders) need to address trauma to have effective service delivery.¹

- Addressing trauma requires a multi-pronged, multi-agency public health approach inclusive of public education and awareness, prevention and early identification, and effective trauma-specific assessment and treatment.
- Trauma is found in multiple service sectors, not just in behavioral health.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach*. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 14-4884. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2014.

- Trauma-based services need to be organized for the entire community based on the knowledge and understanding of trauma and its far-reaching implications.

Addressing trauma requires a multi-pronged, multi-agency public health approach inclusive of public education and awareness, prevention and early identification, and effective trauma-specific assessment and treatment.

- The effects of traumatic events place a heavy burden on individuals, families and communities and create challenges for public institutions and service systems.
- For some people, they have difficulty coping and so experience traumatic stress reactions.
 - People in the juvenile and criminal justice system reveal high rates of mental and substance use disorders and personal histories of trauma.
 - Children and families in the child welfare system similarly experience high rates of trauma and associated behavioral health problems.
 - Young people bring their experiences of trauma into the school systems, often interfering with their school success.
 - And many patients in primary care similarly have significant trauma histories which has an impact on their health and their responsiveness to health interventions.
 - In addition, the public institutions and service systems that are intended to provide services and supports to individuals are often themselves trauma-inducing such as seclusion and restraints, coercive practices, removal of a child from an abusing family, invasive medical procedures, harsh disciplinary practices in educational/school systems, and intimidating practices in the criminal justice system.

With appropriate supports and intervention, people can overcome traumatic experiences.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and can answer any questions.

HB-486

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 2:29:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE include a representative from the Domestic Violence community on this task force! Ignoring, overlooking or forgetting about domestic violence is leaving an open door to trauma and is completely against trauma-informed care.

More times than not, domestic violence is the foundation of many homicides which are traumatizing for all who survive, witness or are exposed/involved so please **INCLUDE** domestic violence representation on all trauma-informed initiatives and remedies.

Thank you ~

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB486

Testimony of
Maile Griffin
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Graduate Student

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

To the Distinguished Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness:

My name is Maile Griffin; I am a University of Hawai'i Social Work Graduate Student testifying on behalf of myself. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB486 which relates to establishing a trauma-informed task force within the Department of Health.

The current reality is that even if service providers deliver the best trauma-informed care, clients are drawn from and released into a society that is largely not trauma-informed (Bowen & Murshid, 2016). As a social work student who has worked with domestic violence survivors and teens, I have encountered clients who have been traumatized by law enforcement, educational institutions, and other systems in Hawai'i that have not been strongly considerate of their trauma (or were the very sources of it). This is especially relevant among marginalized communities that have been subject to current and historical trauma but have access to few resources for support. Establishing a statewide framework for trauma-informed care and responsive practices would be paramount for a cohesive system of care in multiple systems of life. It would also allow trauma-informed practitioners to most effectively deliver services that previously may have been limited.

I support HB486 because of the impact it could have on more effective trauma-informed care. Such measures will help ensure multiple systems of care (and other institutions) in Hawai'i would be trauma-informed for clients beyond my door.

Thank you for your time.

Maile Griffin