

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

April 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: SCR 88 – 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

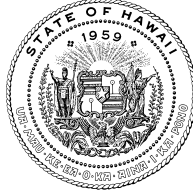
Hearing: April 13, 2023, 9:15 am
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: This resolution requests the Office of Wellness and Resilience to establish the Malama Ohana Working Group to identify, design, and recommend transformative changes to the State's child welfare system.

DHS supports the Legislature's and community's efforts to strengthen the child welfare system of care. However, convening and facilitating this critical and necessary work will require fiscal resources. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Legislature pass SB 295 or SB 398, which includes appropriations for the Malama Ohana Working Group, amongst other things.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Human Services

Thursday, April 13, 2023

9:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

In Strong Support of

SCR No.88, SSCR1472, Relating to 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.

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and members of the Committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR No.88, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

Established through Act 291, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, OWR will address barriers and build wellness and resilience through trauma-informed, strengths-based strategies and support agencies in their trauma-informed care reform efforts and move toward a collaborative, shared purpose of collective system reform.

The establishment of a working group in the OWR to develop recommendations specifically for the child welfare system will help build a collaborative approach with our system partners and community-based organizations. As the Executive Director of the OWR, weaving the principles of trauma-informed care to guide all aspects of this office, including the involvement of community voice and creating opportunities to collaborate, will be essential in creating a trauma-informed state. I support the purpose of this bill and respectfully request appropriations for the working group to carry out its duties.

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

Mahalo,

Tia L R Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Executive Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

April 12, 2023

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 88
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 SCR 88 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