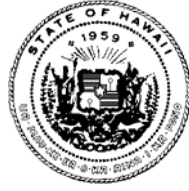


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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 21, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 850 HD1](#) – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Hearing: February 23, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates funds for one twelve-month complex area trauma-informed resource teacher permanent position and one district educational specialist II permanent position for the Castle-Kahuku complex area. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

The HD1 amended the measure by defecting the effective date and making technical changes.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's attention to moving the State government to become trauma-informed, and any resources that assist agencies in becoming trauma-informed organizations are well placed.

DHS initiated the 'Ohana Nui multigenerational approach to delivering human services to link families with the services they need in the most accessible ways. DHS acknowledges that in serving low-income individuals and families, there are likely trauma histories that people may

not be comfortable sharing when they seek assistance. By incorporating trauma-informed care approaches into our work, we aim to avoid re-traumatizing residents so they can begin healing and have more trust in the government in times of need.

DHS is a member of the Trauma-Informed Task Force and supports efforts to align trauma-informed initiatives and practices. Additionally, the Office of Wellness & Resilience is working to coordinate all trauma-informed care reform efforts across state departments and will be implementing the forthcoming Trauma-Informed Task Force framework.

Notably, DHS is leading the Family Resource Center Pilot Program (Act 129, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022) and is partnering with the Public Safety Department to set up a Family Resource & Family Visiting Center at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (Act 125, SLH 2022). Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are set up in communities across the State. For example, during the pandemic, the Kailua-Kalaheo Complex set up FRCs to respond to increased calls from families for assistance. FRCs are community hubs that provide families and caregivers with targeted services or referrals for services based on their needs and interests. Families are familiar with their communities and school settings, and FRCs, in communities or schools, play an integral part in family strengthening and support to provide parents with what they need to boost their ability to provide a stable home environment that will support their children's success in school and the families' overall well-being. The primary goal of family resource centers is to assist families with supportive services before problems become crises that require intervention by child or other protective services. In addition, using a trauma-informed care approach across departments and within communities will increase empathy and build a family and community resilience.

DHS welcomes opportunities for collaboration and continuation of trauma-informed care approaches to serving children and families.

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



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

Date: 02/23/2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0850, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for one twelve-month complex area trauma-informed resource teacher permanent position and one district educational specialist II permanent position for the Castle-Kahuku complex area. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comment on HB 850, HD1. The Department supports the intent to enable the Department to convert temporary positions to permanent ones so long as this does not adversely impact existing prioritized biennium requests.

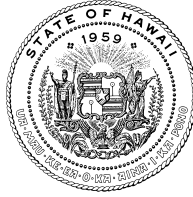
The 2021 Legislature provided funding to the Department that is currently being used to carry out the establishment of a pilot program to develop a trauma-informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area's trauma-informed education program and to build upon the work already done by the Compassionate Koolaupoko Coalition.

Upon the pilot's termination at the end of the school year 2023-2024, the Department will gain insights into the feasibility of expanding the pilot program to other complex areas. Thus, at the termination of the pilot program, the Department requests consideration for other complex areas to be allowed to receive permanent positions and funding to create similar programs.

Finally, the Department respectfully requests that the specific job duties and

responsibilities for positions not be outlined in statute but stated in the position descriptions created by the Department. This is to ensure the job duties and responsibilities properly align with the level and scope of the specified job classes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 850, HD1.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committees on Finance
Thursday, February 23, 2023
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
In Support and offering comments on
H.B. No. 850, SD1, Relating to Education

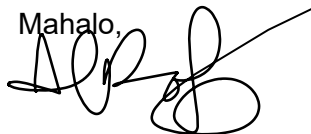
Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **supports the intent** of H.B. No. 850, SD1, Relating to Education and offers the following comments.

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 reform efforts to address trauma-informed care and move toward a collaborative, shared purpose of collective system reform.

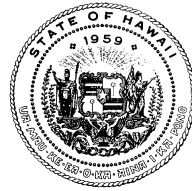
The Act 209, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, Trauma-Informed Care Task Force is currently developing and will adopt a statewide framework to create a trauma-informed state. Additionally, the OWR is working to coordinate all trauma-informed care reform efforts across state departments and will be implementing the Act 209 framework. I respectfully encourage the committee to consider adding language in this bill for these positions to coordinate efforts with OWR to enhance outcomes across systems.

Thank you for considering these comments and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure. I am available for any questions.

Mahalo,


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

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



RICHARD RIES, Psy.D., M.Ed.
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
In Support of House Bill 850 HD 1
RELATING TO EDUCATION, DOH TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION

Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:00 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

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EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

WEBSITE:

scmh.hawaii.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS:

doh.scmhchairperson@
doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, established the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The SCMH supports the intent of this measure to provide resources for the trauma-informed education program of the Department of Education Castle-Kahuku Complex Area. It notes that it will potentially benefit the children, families and communities of one of Oahu's more rural areas, where the gap between appropriate mental health services and needs may be wider than the urban core.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.

VISION: A Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice.

MISSION: To advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:05:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Dew	Wisdom Circles Oceania	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I am writing in full support of HB 850 relating to education and supporting trauma-informed care. Our organization, Wisdom Circles Oceania has personally worked with Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko and the work they are doing is critical in supporting our children and youth and educators in meeting the mental health crisis we are currently experiencing as a result of COVID-19. This requires a multi-pronged approach integrating cultural relevancy, place-based practices, and trauma-informed tools, all of which Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko have extensive expertise in. In addition they demonstrate strong organizing capabilities and adaptable methods to gather community stakeholders in a way that is restorative and successful in building a community of care. I see that this program can work as an example and pilot to be shared across Hawai‘i to support trauma-informed care and support our children in their healing and growth.

Mahalo nui,

Sierra Dew

Director at Wisdom Circles Oceania

www.wisdomcircles.org



February 22, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson
Michael W. Beasley, Esq.

House Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Ethan Cooper
Herb Lee, Jr.
Brad Cooper
Colette Higgins

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members,

RE: Support of HB 850 HD 1 Relating to Education

ADMINISTRATION

President & CEO
Herb Lee Jr.
Chief Financial Officer
Louis F. Perez II
General Counsel
Ethan Cooper

The Pacific American Foundation (PAF) fully supports HB 850 HD 1 that appropriates funds for one twelve-month complex area trauma informed resource teacher permanent position and one district educational specialist II permanent position for the Castle and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas in windward O’ahu.

Pacific American Foundation
C/O 111 Hekili Street Suite A
170
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

PAF has been actively involved in Compassionate Ko’olaupoko since its inception and we are so glad that trauma -informed training and practices began to set a foundation in our schools prior to the pandemic. The relationship building alone was critical in this time of crisis and gaps continue to exist within our school communities as we heal ourselves and re-connect to people, places and things that nourish us.

Phone: (808) 664-3027
www.thepaf.org

I have worked closely and directly with these two staff positions and their Aloha, mana’o and dedication to providing much needed resources to our students, their families and teachers have been absolutely remarkable and welcome.

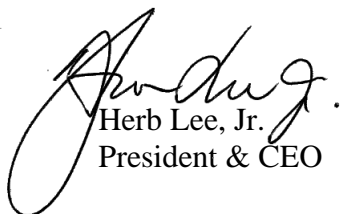
As we learn more about the impact that social emotional learning can have on creating positive and reinforcing conditions for learning for all, we all realize that this training and support is absolutely essential to the education process.

Grounding this trauma-informed practices in the indigenous culture of Hawaii has also been a key component to its success. This sensitivity and commitment to a culturally responsive methodology have produced an even deeper connection that families can relate to and feel comfortable and safe.

The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever, to help students recover from the pandemic and accelerate equitable outcomes in health, education and employment.

PAF urges you to support this bill that would allow all of our schools to better implement and organize the resources allocated towards the success of learners, families, and communities.

Sincerely,



Herb Lee, Jr.
President & CEO

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:34:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:57:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie Okamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 850 and the future funding of Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko. The work to promote trauma-informed and place-based care for youth has the potential to impact generations of youth in Hawai‘i.

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:23:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian J Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB 850. Compassionate Ko'olaupoko is a wonderful support system for our community especially in the after math of the pandemic. As a father I feel it is very important to have trauma-informed care in our school system as well as the support for teachers.

Mahalo,

Brian Campbell

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:33:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Schools and students need more support.

SEL is integral to making educational spaces open to all students and facilitating an environment where all learners can thrive.

If students are required to come to school, we are required to fund and support an effective teaching environment for them, this bill is a small step towards making that more true.

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:35:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KODA DAILY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a recent high school graduate, I strongly support this bill. We need these types of changes for the betterment of our keiki, our future, and our livelihood.

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:35:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hye Jung Kim Tano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

I am writing in support of HB 850. My name is Hye Jung Kim Tano and I have worked closely with Kumu Bella and Dr. Gail throughout the year. Their work not only provides Hawai'i-informed, place-based, trauma responsive training in schools and community but also helps to strengthen the network and the connections within the broader community to expand the support system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 850 relating to education.

Hye Jung

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:53:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan French	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko provides high quality Hawai‘i-Informed, Place-Based, Trauma-Responsive training in our schools and Windward community. Providing training that helps us understand trauma in the context of the Cultural Trauma that continues to impact our community in multiple ways including high rates of learning difficulties, substance abuse, children being placed in foster care, and our school to prison pipeline. Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko is dedicated to disrupting these patterns in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Education, DOE leaders in the Windward District, and multiple community partners. The Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko team is leading this initiative through their school training in trauma-responsive and indigenous restorative practices, their speaker series & book studies as well as their family strengthening, Lā ‘Ohana (family) days. Please give careful consideration and continue to support the work of Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko

Aloha Kākou,

I am Gail Silva, a Hawai'i Licensed Clinical Psychologist, and District Educational Specialist with the Department of Education, currently serving with the Compassionate Ko'olaupoko team.

The Board of Education policy states, "**Hawaii's public education system should embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students in grades K-12 for success in college, career and communities, locally and globally.**" This would include information provided for trauma-responsive schools and Social Emotional Learning.

Compassionate Ko'olaupoko (CK) provides Hawai'i-Informed, Place-Based, Trauma-Responsive training in our windward district schools and community. The training helps our school teams understand trauma in the context of the cultural trauma that continues to impact our community in multiple ways including higher rates of learning difficulties, substance abuse, children in foster care, poverty, and our school to prison pipeline.

CK is dedicated to disrupting these patterns in collaboration with our Office of Hawaiian Education, DOE leaders in the Windward District, and multiple community partners. We ask our school teams: **What does a Trauma-Responsive School look and feel like in Hawai'i?** Trauma-informed training often misses this key question and doesn't allow the space and safety to talk about the impact of Cultural Trauma or solutions to begin to address it.

Kumu Bella Finau-Faumuina and I are asking school teams to co-create a community involved response. We are leading this initiative through our school trainings in trauma-responsive and indigenous restorative practices, our speaker series & book studies as well as family strengthening activities at our Lā 'Ohana (family) days that are consistently created with community partners. In addition, Kumu Bella provides shoulder to shoulder support in the classroom to teachers in order for them to integrate training info and we both collaboratively consult with teachers and administrators.

*This is a slide deck of the beginnings of our [place based journey](#) in case this might be helpful. This is a [sample of some of our training slides](#) that integrate western concepts of the physiology of individual and developmental trauma as well as information on Cultural Trauma and ways to begin to respond. There is much more beyond these samples. It is a process, not a one time training.

If we want to address both the roots and outgrowth/symptoms of trauma, we need time and resources. This relational process takes time. We have had to take the time to build relationships with both school and community leaders to hear what they have to say. Our training time has to incorporate time for experiential learning, voice and continued collaboration between school and community.

Our informal data suggests that these trainings have ignited important reflections, mindset shifts and discussions with school leaders, teachers, and students.

Please consider allowing us the time and resources to continue this important work on behalf of our community. We are happy to answer any questions.

Mahalo nui for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Silva Psy.D.", written in a cursive style.

Gail Silva, Psy.D.

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:07:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delia Ulima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Delia Ulima and I am submitting comments to support HB 850 HD1. I have worked with young leaders that are former foster youth for over 13 years. I also serve on the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council. The vast majority of our young people in systems are involved in some way with our State education system. The importance of trauma-responsive and culture-based knowledge and approaches for our keiki should be underscored and supported in every possible way. The administration, systems, teachers and counselors that impact our keiki, particularly those that are most vulnerable, must be trauma-responsive and having a foundation about place-based and cultural practices that have positive educational impact on our children is vital to their success, healing, support and long-term well-being. The kinds of approaches that have been developed with these existing positions are being looked at not only in Hawaii, but around the world, as cutting-edge, innovative and effective practices with positive outcomes. Please fund and ensure that these positions and opportunities continue to exist in our Hawaii school systems. Mahalo!

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:04:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 850 Relating To Education. To include the Waianae community.

HB-850-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 4:12:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linahla Bulatao	Aina aloha o na lima hana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Kumu Bella Finau-Faumuina and Dr. Gail Silva is a team who uses a holistic approach that brings transformation, collaboration, and pilina (relationships) to our community on the Windward side of O‘ahu. As a kumu, educational coordinator, and ‘ohana member of ‘Āina aloha o na lima hana farm in Luluku, I have worked closely with them as they support, train, inform and collaborate with community partners, principals, teachers, counselors, behavioral specialists, haumana (students), and ‘ohana. The knowledge that they pass along includes: how to be not only trauma-informed, but trauma-responsive, how important our ‘āina and culture is for healing, how to create safe spaces for the children, how to create and restore relationships, and how one must take care of oneself before they can take care of others.

It is imperative that Bella and Gail become permanent positions, for they have only chipped away at the tip of the iceberg and in doing that they have already made such leaps and bounds in our community. They connect community partners/‘āina with the schools in their area, creating an “it takes a village to raise a child” mentality that is needed for the communities and the ‘ohana within them. They give awareness of all the resources that are available to the schools, community partners, and families. They pass along preventative techniques/methods to help protect the future of “at-risk” kids, which in turn will lower the school-to prison pipeline population and increase the law-abiding, community-engaged population. They advocate for the Native Hawaiian population and give recognition to the trauma the culture and its people have been through. The Native Hawaiian population is overrepresented in the correctional system and foster system and taking these preventative measures and showing these kanaka (Native Hawaiians) that they and their culture are unique and special and that they are cared for, gives me hope that we can change the statistics and create a better future for our children.

Within the scope of work that Bella and Gail have done in such a short amount of time, I have personally seen kumu become enlightened and have many “aha” moments; I have seen ‘ohana fill our farm and make connections with us and each other, wanting to be a part of the ‘āina, telling us “I didn’t know you were here, this is amazing”; and I have seen relief and excitement in school administration in finding solutions/ideas/methods for their “at-risk” students and the troubles these students find themselves in.

I fully support HB 850 that appropriates funds for their positions and hope they can continue the impactful journey they have begun.

Sincerely,

Linahla Bulatao