
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children and
2 families who are referred to the department of human services
3 child welfare services branch have undergone a significant
4 amount of trauma.

5 The malama ohana working group created by Act 86, Session
6 Laws of Hawaii 2023, has submitted a report to the legislature
7 that provides recommendations to create transformative changes
8 to the State's existing child welfare system. Among the
9 recommendations, the malama ohana working group has put forward
10 a call for all child welfare services branch staff in the
11 department of human services to receive comprehensive
12 trauma-informed care training as part of developing a trauma-
13 informed organization.

14 The legislature also finds that, in order for an
15 organization to fully adopt a trauma-informed approach, there
16 must be policies and practices that address the needs of staff,
17 including training on the impacts of vicarious trauma, secondary



1 traumatic stress, and burnout that staff experience as a result
2 of their work.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Direct the office of wellness and resilience to
5 collaborate with the department of human services to,
6 either directly or by contract, design, administer,
7 and implement a program for trauma-informed
8 organizational assessments and a training curriculum
9 for the department of human services child welfare
10 services branch staff; and

11 (2) Appropriate funds for the program.

12 SECTION 2. (a) The office of wellness and resilience, in
13 collaboration with the department of human services, shall
14 design, administer, and implement a trauma-informed care
15 organizational assessment and training program, either directly
16 or by contract.

17 (b) The trauma-informed organizational assessment and
18 training curriculum for the department of human services child
19 welfare services branch staff shall specifically include:

20 (1) An evidence-based assessment tool to help child
21 welfare services branch staff assess their current



- 1 policies and procedures in the context of serving
- 2 children and families who have experienced trauma;
- 3 (2) An evidence-based assessment tool to measure the
- 4 degree to which child welfare services branch staff
- 5 address worker well-being, including the effects of
- 6 vicarious trauma, secondary traumatic stress, and
- 7 burnout of all child welfare services branch staff;
- 8 (3) A training curriculum that establishes a cohort of
- 9 trained trainers, including a branch-wide
- 10 trauma-informed care curriculum accompanied by ongoing
- 11 technical assistance;
- 12 (4) Specialized trauma-informed supervisor training and
- 13 technical assistance to ensure that implementation of
- 14 the curriculum is sustainable; and
- 15 (5) A child welfare services expert to consult on the
- 16 implementation of the assessment findings.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
 20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 21 year 2026-2027 for the office of wellness and resilience to,



1 directly or by contract, design, administer, and implement a
2 trauma-informed care organizational assessment and training
3 program for the department of human services child welfare
4 branch.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
6 wellness and resilience for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
8 2050.



Report Title:

DHS; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Trauma-informed Care;
Child Welfare Services; Assessment; Training; Appropriations

Description:

Directs the Office of Wellness and Resilience to collaborate with the Department of Human Services to, either directly or by contract, design, administer, and implement a program for trauma-informed organizational assessments and a training curriculum for the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch staff. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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