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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the office of  
2 wellness and resilience leads efforts to make Hawaii a trauma-  
3 informed state. Trauma-informed care is defined as an approach  
4 to understanding, recognizing, respecting, and responding to the  
5 pervasive and widespread impacts of trauma on our ability to  
6 connect with ourselves and others, our place and the elements  
7 around us, and our ways of being.

8           The legislature further finds that strengthening policies  
9 and programs to be trauma-informed can result in better  
10 workforce retention and recruitment.

11           The legislature finds that the office of wellness and  
12 resilience is best suited to be a semi-autonomous authority  
13 under the department of human resources development because of  
14 its unique oversight of, and collaboration with, other executive  
15 state departments.

16           The department of human resources development has oversight  
17 over all other state departments on topics of focus for the  
18 office of wellness and resilience and a trauma-informed state,

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1 including workplace environment and well-being, training and  
2 professional development, benefits, and recruitment and  
3 retention.

4 The purpose of this Act is to transfer the office of  
5 wellness and resilience to the department of human resources  
6 development for administrative purposes only, establish a  
7 wellness and resilience advisory board within the department of  
8 human resources development, and update the office of wellness  
9 and resilience functions.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
11 by adding to part IX a new section to be appropriately  
12 designated and to read as follows:

13 "§27- Wellness and resilience advisory board;  
14 establishment; members; roles. (a) There is established within  
15 the department, for administrative purposes only, a wellness and  
16 resilience advisory board to advise the office in implementing  
17 this part. The board shall consist of eleven members, with  
18 quorum being six members. The eleven members shall be:

19 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,  
20 who shall serve as the chairperson of the advisory  
21 board;

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- 1        (2) The director of human services, or the director's  
2        designee;
- 3        (3) The superintendent of education, or the  
4        superintendent's designee;
- 5        (4) The director of corrections and rehabilitation, or the  
6        director's designee;
- 7        (5) The director of the executive office on early  
8        learning, or the director's designee;
- 9        (6) A member of the judiciary, to be appointed by the  
10       chief justice of the supreme court;
- 11       (7) A faculty member from the university of Hawaii John A.  
12       Burns school of medicine, to be appointed by the dean  
13       of the university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of  
14       medicine; and
- 15       (8) The following four members appointed by the  
16       chairperson for a term of four years:
- 17       (A) The chief executive officer of Kamehameha  
18       Schools, or the chief executive officer's  
19       designee;
- 20       (B) A member of the law enforcement community;
- 21       (C) A member of the nonprofit sector; and

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1            (D) A community member or nonprofit representative  
2                            from the Compact of Free Association islander  
3                            community.

4            (b) The wellness and resilience advisory board shall  
5 advise on wellness and resilience through trauma-informed care  
6 in the State. Specifically, the advisory board shall:

7            (1) Create, develop, and adopt a statewide framework for  
8                            trauma-informed and responsive practice. The  
9                            framework shall include:

10           (A) A clear definition of "trauma-informed and  
11                            responsive practice";

12           (B) Principles of trauma-informed and responsive care  
13                            that may apply to any school, health care  
14                            provider, law enforcement agency, community  
15                            organization, state agency, or other entity that  
16                            has contact with children or youth;

17           (C) Clear examples of how individuals and  
18                            institutions may implement trauma-informed and  
19                            responsive practices across different domains,  
20                            including organizational leadership, workforce  
21                            development, policy and decision-making, and  
22                            evaluation;

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- 1            (D) Strategies for preventing and addressing  
2            secondary traumatic stress for all professionals  
3            and providers working with children and youth and  
4            their families who have experienced trauma;
- 5            (E) Recommendations to implement trauma-informed care  
6            professional development and strategy  
7            requirements in county and state contracts; and
- 8            (F) An implementation and sustainability plan,  
9            consisting of an evaluation plan with suggested  
10           metrics for assessing ongoing progress of the  
11           framework;
- 12          (2) Identify best practices, including those from Native  
13          Hawaiian cultural practices, with respect to children  
14          and youth who have experienced or are at risk of  
15          experiencing trauma, and their families;
- 16          (3) Provide a trauma-informed care inventory and  
17          assessment of public and private agencies and  
18          departments;
- 19          (4) Identify various cultural practices that build  
20          wellness and resilience in communities;

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1           (5) Convene trauma-informed care practitioners so that  
2           they may share research and strategies in helping  
3           communities build wellness and resilience;

4           (6) Seek ways in which federal funding may be used to  
5           better coordinate and improve the response to families  
6           impacted by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19),  
7           substance use disorders, domestic violence, poverty,  
8           and other forms of trauma; and make recommendations,  
9           as necessary, for a government position to communicate  
10          with federal agencies to seek and leverage federal  
11          funding with county and state agencies and  
12          philanthropic organizations; and

13          (7) Coordinate data collection and funding streams to  
14          support the efforts of the board.

15          (c) The nongovernmental members of the wellness and  
16          resilience advisory board shall serve without compensation but  
17          shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,  
18          necessary for the performance of their duties."

19           SECTION 3. Section 27-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20          amended as follows:

21           (1) By adding a new definition to be appropriately  
22          inserted and to read as follows:

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1           "Department" means the department of human resources  
2 development."

3           (2) By repealing the definition of "trauma-informed care  
4 task force".

5           ~~["Trauma informed care task force" means the trauma-~~  
6 ~~informed care task force established pursuant to Act 209,~~  
7 ~~Session Laws of Hawaii 2021."]~~

8           SECTION 4. Section 27-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

10           "(a) There is established within the ~~[office of the~~  
11 ~~governor, on a temporary basis and for special purposes,]~~  
12 department, for administrative purposes only, the office of  
13 wellness and resilience."

14           SECTION 5. Section 27-63, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16           "~~[~~§27-63~~]~~ **Functions.** The office shall:

17           (1) Address issues identified and implement solutions  
18           recommened by the ~~[trauma informed care task force]~~  
19           wellness and resilience advisory board through a  
20           cross-representation of state departments and the  
21           private sector, including private donors;

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- 1        (2) Identify common issues, unmet needs, and challenges  
2        encountered by departments and work to solve those  
3        issues through a cross-representation of state  
4        departments and the private sector, including private  
5        donors;
- 6        (3) Seek funding solutions using moneys that each  
7        department has access to, including federal, state,  
8        and private sources, and work with philanthropic  
9        organizations and other entities from the private  
10       sector to re-evaluate the State's funding priorities  
11       and find funding solutions to implement  
12       interdepartmental programming;
- 13       (4) Establish a procurement team that has cross-agency  
14       representation to streamline existing department grant  
15       and funding management and meet existing fiduciary  
16       obligations and other state requirements;
- 17       (5) Interact with community agencies, organizations, and  
18       other stakeholders to ensure the office is meeting the  
19       needs and wellness requirements of communities  
20       throughout the State; [and]
- 21       (6) Create a social determinants of health electronic  
22       dashboard that identifies a baseline of needs and

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1 concerns that impede high quality-of-life outcomes[-];

2 and

3 (7) Provide training and technical assistance to executive

4 state departments and agencies to support trauma-

5 informed policies, practices, programs, and

6 processes."

7 SECTION 6. Chapter 346, part XXI, Hawaii Revised Statutes,

8 is repealed.

9 SECTION 7. Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, is

10 repealed.

11 SECTION 8. Act 87, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, is

12 repealed.

13 SECTION 9. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of

14 the office of the governor relating to the office of wellness

15 and resilience are transferred to the department of human

16 resources development.

17 All officers and employees whose functions are transferred

18 by this Act shall be transferred with their functions and shall

19 continue to perform their regular duties upon their transfer,

20 subject to the state personnel laws and this Act.

21 No officer or employee of the State having tenure shall

22 suffer any loss of salary, seniority, prior service credit,

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1 vacation, sick leave, or other employee benefit or privilege as  
2 a consequence of this Act, and such officer or employee may be  
3 transferred or appointed to a civil service position without the  
4 necessity of examination; provided that the officer or employee  
5 possesses the minimum qualifications for the position to which  
6 transferred or appointed; and provided that subsequent changes  
7 in status may be made pursuant to applicable civil service and  
8 compensation laws.

9       An officer or employee of the State who does not have  
10 tenure and who may be transferred or appointed to a civil  
11 service position as a consequence of this Act shall become a  
12 civil service employee without the loss of salary, seniority,  
13 prior service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee  
14 benefits or privileges and without the necessity of examination;  
15 provided that such officer or employee possesses the minimum  
16 qualifications for the position to which transferred or  
17 appointed.

18       If an office or position held by an officer or employee  
19 having tenure is abolished, the officer or employee shall not  
20 thereby be separated from public employment, but shall remain in  
21 the employment of the State with the same pay and classification  
22 and shall be transferred to some other office or position for

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1 which the officer or employee is eligible under the personnel  
2 laws of the State as determined by the head of the department or  
3 the governor.

4 SECTION 10. All rules, policies, procedures, guidelines,  
5 and other material adopted or developed by the office of the  
6 governor to implement provisions of the Hawaii Revised Statutes  
7 that are reenacted or made applicable to the department of human  
8 resources development by this Act shall remain in full force and  
9 effect until amended or repealed by the department of human  
10 resources development pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
11 Statutes.

12 In the interim, every reference to the office of the  
13 governor or governor in those rules, policies, procedures,  
14 guidelines, and other material is amended to refer to the  
15 department of human resources development or director of human  
16 resources development, as appropriate.

17 SECTION 11. All deeds, leases, contracts, loans,  
18 agreements, permits, or other documents executed or entered into  
19 by or on behalf of the office of the governor, pursuant to the  
20 provisions of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, that are reenacted or  
21 made applicable to the department of human resources development  
22 by this Act, shall remain in full force and effect. Upon the

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1 effective date of this Act, every reference to the office of the  
2 governor or governor therein shall be construed as a reference  
3 to the department of human resources development or director of  
4 human resources development, as appropriate.

5 SECTION 12. All appropriations, records, equipment,  
6 machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents,  
7 maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used,  
8 acquired, or held by the office of the governor relating to the  
9 functions of the office of wellness and resilience transferred  
10 to the department of human resources development shall be  
11 transferred with the functions to which they relate.

12 SECTION 13. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 14. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect  
15 on June 29, 2025.

16  
17 INTRODUCED BY:

Neelie K. Pearson

18 BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2025

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**Report Title:**

Office of Wellness and Resilience; Office of the Governor; DHRD

**Description:**

Transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience to the Department of Human Resources Development on June 29, 2025. Creates a wellness and resilience advisory board. Updates the Office of Wellness and Resilience functions.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Governor

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

PURPOSE: To transfer the Office of Wellness and Resilience to the Department of Human Resources Development on June 29, 2025, to establish a Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board within the Department of Human Resources Development, and to update the Office of Wellness and Resilience functions.

MEANS: Add a new section to part IX of chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), amend sections 27-61, 27-62(a), and 27-63, HRS, and repeal part XXI of chapter 346, HRS, Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2021, and Act 87, SLH 2023.

JUSTIFICATION: The Department of Human Resources Development has oversight over all other state departments on topics of focus for the Office of Wellness and Resilience and a trauma-informed state, including workplace environment and well-being, training and professional development, benefits, and recruitment and retention. Therefore, the Office of Wellness and Resilience is best suited to be a semi-autonomous authority under the Department of Human Resources Development.

Impact on the public: None.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This bill will require the Department of Human Resources Development to administer the Office of Wellness and Resilience as an attached agency.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

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PPBS PROGRAM

DESIGNATION: GOV100.

OTHER AFFECTED

AGENCIES: Department of Human Resources Development.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 29, 2025.