

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more programs and  
2 services must be established to address the unmet needs of  
3 children and families at risk of child welfare system  
4 involvement.

5           The malama ohana working group was established by Act 86,  
6 Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, within the office of wellness and  
7 resilience to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes  
8 to the State's existing child welfare system. In its report  
9 submitted to the legislature, the malama ohana working group  
10 stated that there is a shortage of resources in Hawaii dedicated  
11 to preventing the need for children's and families' involvement  
12 with child welfare services, especially primary prevention and  
13 universal support. Many families at high risk of entering the  
14 child welfare system are unaware of available services or how to  
15 access them. The malama ohana working group recommended that  
16 the establishment of programs, such as universal family  
17 supports, that allow families to thrive be prioritized above all



1 other commitments in an effort to divert children and families  
2 away from involvement with the child welfare system. The malama  
3 ohana working group specifically provided suggestions for family  
4 support, such as creating accessible pathways to concrete  
5 supports like food and shelter, establishing community-based  
6 resource centers staffed by individuals with lived experience,  
7 and meeting families' basic needs for housing, child care, and  
8 physical and mental health care.

9       The legislature further finds that examples of child  
10 welfare diversion programs exist in other states and have been  
11 successful in reducing the number of families involved with  
12 child welfare. These diversion programs have been successful by  
13 screening at-risk families and providing them with peer support  
14 and system navigation, resource program supports and financial  
15 assistance, and parenting and family-strengthening classes and  
16 therapy.

17       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
18 appropriate funds for a five-year family resilience pilot  
19 program within the office of wellness and resilience.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of  
2 wellness and resilience a family resilience pilot program, in  
3 which the office of wellness and resilience shall provide:

4 (1) Trauma-informed peer support navigators who have lived  
5 experience going through the social service system to  
6 assist families with enrollment in public or other  
7 benefits, family strengthening, and cultural  
8 programming;

9 (2) Financial assistance and resource supports to aid with  
10 food, clothing, hygiene, housing, parenting, child  
11 care, household, and transportation needs; and

12 (3) A trauma-informed, parenting intervention program that  
13 improves caregiver-child relationships and parenting  
14 skills through teaching and coaching on positive  
15 communication, child behavior management strategies,  
16 and calming and emotional regulation strategies for  
17 both caregiver and child.

18 (b) The office of wellness and resilience shall establish,  
19 no later than December 31, 2025, the following:

20 (1) Data and referral system tracking needs and protocols  
21 to comply with applicable federal and state laws; and



1 (2) An implementation and evaluation plan that includes  
2 specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and  
3 time-bound goals.

4 (c) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a  
5 report of the effectiveness and participation in the pilot  
6 program, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature  
7 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
8 session of 2031.

9 (d) The family resilience pilot program shall cease on  
10 June 30, 2030.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
15 year 2026-2027 for the office of wellness and resilience to  
16 establish a family resilience pilot program pursuant to this  
17 Act, including the contracting of services to implement the  
18 pilot program.

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Family Resilience Pilot Program; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Data and Referral System; Implementation and Evaluation Plan; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a five-year family resilience pilot program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience. Requires the Office of Wellness and Resilience to establish data and referral system tracking needs and protocols and an implementation and evaluation plan by 12/31/2025. Sunsets the pilot program 6/30/2030. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

