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# 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 undergo a significant amount of  
4 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, including having  
9 all child welfare services branch staff in the department of  
10 human services to receive comprehensive trauma-informed care  
11 training as part of developing a trauma-informed system.

12           The legislature also finds that, in order for an  
13 organization to fully adopt a trauma-informed approach, there  
14 must be policies and practices that address the needs of the  
15 staff, including the effects of vicarious trauma, secondary  
16 traumatic stress, and burnout.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the  
2 office of wellness and resilience to collaborate with the  
3 department of human services to, either directly or by contract,  
4 design, administer, and implement a program for trauma-informed  
5 organizational assessments and a training curriculum for the  
6 child welfare services branch of the department of human  
7 services.

8           SECTION 2. The office of wellness and resilience, in  
9 collaboration with the department of human services, shall  
10 design, administer, and implement a trauma-informed care  
11 organizational assessment and training program, either directly  
12 or by contract, for the child welfare services branch of the  
13 department of human services.

14           The trauma-informed organizational assessment and training  
15 curriculum shall specifically include:

- 16           (1) An evidence-based assessment tool to assist the branch  
17 staff in assessing the branch's existing policies and  
18 procedures in the context of serving children and  
19 families who have experienced trauma;
- 20           (2) An evidence-based assessment tool to measure the  
21 degree to which the branch staff addresses worker



1 well-being, including the effects of vicarious trauma,  
2 secondary traumatic stress, and burnout of all branch  
3 staff;

4 (3) A training curriculum that establishes a cohort of  
5 trained mentors;

6 (4) A branch-wide trauma-informed care curriculum  
7 accompanied by ongoing technical assistance;

8 (5) Specialized trauma-informed supervisor training and  
9 technical assistance to ensure sustainable  
10 implementation of the curriculum; and

11 (6) A child welfare services expert to consult on the  
12 implementation of the assessment's findings.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2026-2027 for the office of wellness and resilience to  
18 design, administer, and implement a trauma-informed care  
19 training and organizational assessment program for the child  
20 welfare services branch of the department of human services,  
21 directly or by contract.



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

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

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**Report Title:**

OWP; DHS; CWS; Trauma-informed Care; 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 Child Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Human Services. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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