



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 135 SD1
URGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS TO PARTNER WITH THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS
AND RESILIENCE FOR DATA-SHARING AGREEMENTS**

Representative Jackson Sayama, Chair
Representative Mike Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor

April 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., Room Number: 309

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **SUPPORTS** S.C.R. 135 SD1, which urges all State departments to partner with the OWR for data-sharing agreements. Such agreements are crucial to our mission of addressing barriers that impact individual social, physical, and emotional well-being through a trauma-informed framework.

As mandated by Act 291, SLH 2022, one of our primary functions is to "create a social determinants of health electronic dashboard that identifies a baseline of needs and concerns that impede high quality-of-life outcomes." In fulfillment of this mandate, the OWR partnered with the Health Policy Initiative at the University of Hawai'i to launch the Quality of Life and Well-Being Dashboard¹ in December 2024. This dashboard now represents the largest survey of health and well-being in Hawai'i to date and the largest administration of the CDC's WellBQ in the nation. This achievement positions our office uniquely to examine community needs through a data-driven lens, enabling us to develop effective, evidence-based, and trauma-informed strategies.

Without formalized data-sharing agreements, the OWR faces limitations in fulfilling our mandate and evolving the nature of our statewide understanding of social determinants of health. Like other states, many Hawai'i datasets remain siloed within individual departments and navigating through different data collection methodologies makes cross-departmental analysis difficult². Compounding these difficulties, recent federal policies have begun restricting access to major national datasets such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, making local-to-national comparisons increasingly difficult. While legitimate privacy concerns and inconsistent protocols limit information sharing, they also prevent the development of valuable insights that could inform strategies to address the barriers affecting the well-being of Hawai'i's residents.

¹ Barile, J. P., Orimoto, T., Kook, J., Chae, S. W., Dgheim, D., Rivera, C., Helfner, S., Turner, H., Thompson, K., Yamauchi, E., Leipold, N., & Hartsock, T. (2024). Hawai'i quality of life and well-being dashboard. Partnership for Wellness & Resilience, Health Policy Initiative, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

² Kim, S., Kim-Fat Ho, J. A., Li, Y., Fan, B., Yang, W. Y., Ramey, J., Fox, S., Zhu, H., Zimmerman, J., & Eslami, M. (2024). Integrating Equity in Public Sector Data-Driven Decision Making: Exploring the Desired Futures of Underserved Stakeholders. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 8(CSCW2), 1–39. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3686905>

Research consistently demonstrates that integrating data from multiple sources provides community members and policymakers with a comprehensive understanding of community challenges that would not be apparent when analyzing data in isolation³. For example, this means we might be able to better identify: (1) the prevalence and impacts of trauma across different populations; (2) interconnected risk factors that cross departmental boundaries; (3) service gaps and opportunities for collaborative interventions; and (4) overlapping needs currently being addressed by multiple departments in silos.

The OWR stands ready to work collaboratively with all state departments to establish appropriate data-sharing agreements that respect privacy while advancing our shared kuleana of promoting the wellness and resilience of Hawai'i's people.

We believe the proposed resolution represents an important step toward breaking down institutional silos and fostering a more coordinated, effective approach to addressing trauma and promoting well-being throughout our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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³ Hartley-Binns, J. (2023). Data at your fingertips: How the Integrated Data Service is helping to promote collaboration and efficient decision-making in the UK. *International Journal of Population Data Science*. 8(2). doi: 10.23889/ijpds.v8i2.2349.