

STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'āina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on S.B. No. 3204, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.
Committee: HSH
Date/Time: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in support of S.B. 3204, S.D. 1, which creates a family resilience pilot program to provide comprehensive specialized support services for families eligible for the temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) program.

This measure aligns with the Early Learning Board's current framework of policy priorities, which is grounded in the Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan. Specifically, the bill advances State Plan Building Block 2: 'Ohana Partnerships and Engagement by utilizing a peer support model to increase 'ohana access to information about resources, learning opportunities, and public support services.

The pilot program takes a proactive, prevention-focused approach by providing families with tools, resources, and relationships to help address challenges early and reduce the likelihood of involvement with the child welfare system. The use of trauma-informed peer support resource navigators from their own communities who have navigated similar circumstances is particularly impactful. This approach has the potential to build trust, lower barriers to engagement, and help families connect more meaningfully to services they are eligible for. Together, these strategies enhance family engagement and support, which are key elements of a strong and effective early learning system.

We appreciate the Legislature's ongoing investment and shared commitment to strengthening Hawai'i's early learning system for our youngest keiki and their 'ohana. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of S.B. No. 3204, S.D. 1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE
CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Marten and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB3204 SD1 Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) **strongly supports** the portions of **SB3204 SD1** that establish trauma-informed peer support resource navigators within the proposed Family Resilience Pilot Program.

A central element of this bill is the integration of trained peer support navigators with lived experience. The Council affirms the value of this approach. Peer support is a proven, culturally grounded model that helps families access community-based services, navigate complex systems, and build trust with providers. For many families, especially those facing trauma, poverty, disability, or child-welfare involvement, connecting with someone who has "walked a similar path" is often the difference between engaging in services or falling through the cracks.

At the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, we have seen firsthand how impactful peer support can be. Our own programs that incorporate peer supports consistently demonstrate stronger family engagement, increased follow-through on referrals, and improved confidence among caregivers. When families feel understood and supported by someone from their own community, they are far more likely to access and benefit from the services intended to help them.

Because of this experience, we are in strong support of the bill's provisions that:

- Hire and train trauma-informed peer support resource navigators;
- Ensure alignment with the Peer Support Specialists Working Group recommendations;
- Use motivational interviewing and culturally responsive practices; and
- Connect families to benefits, parenting supports, and community resources.

However, the Council respectfully defers to the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) on all other aspects of SB3204 SD1, including program design, implementation, reporting requirements, and the use of TANF funds. OWR is the appropriate agency to speak to the broader structure and administration of the Family Resilience Pilot Program.

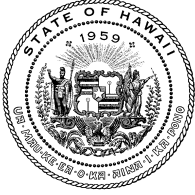
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We appreciate the Legislature's commitment to strengthening families and preventing involvement with the child welfare system. We stand ready to collaborate and share our experience as this initiative moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **Support of SB3204 SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

March 23, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

**RE: SB 3204-SD1 -- RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT
PROGRAM**

HEARING: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 10:00 am; Conference Room 329

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

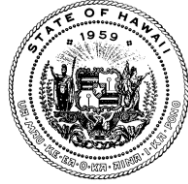
SHPDA strongly supports SB 3204-SD1, with comments.

This SHPDA strongly supports the one-year Family Resilience Pilot Project within the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to reduce preventable child abuse and neglect. The OWR program will hire and train 5 trauma-informed peer support resource navigators to reach out to 80 families who are eligible for TANF (temporary assistance for needy families) funding.

The navigators will provide family support and parenting classes and other support services to the families. There are other details, goals, and parameters included in the proposal, but we believe this pilot is achievable, scalable when proven successful, and critically important to reduce child abuse and neglect among families in need.

Thanks for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S.BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Testimony on S.B. 3204 SD1
RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

March 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.; Room Number: 329

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) **SUPPORTS** S.B. 3204 SD1, Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program and requests amendments.

The mission of the Office of Wellness and Resilience is to strengthen state systems and services by advancing hope-centered principles and supporting Hawai'i's transition toward becoming a trauma-informed state. As the state agency that administered the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group, our office had the privilege of working closely with individuals with lived experience and expertise in the child welfare service system, as well as with state departments and community partners. The recommendations in the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group Report center the voices and experiences of children and families most impacted by the system.

This report, submitted to the 2025 Hawai'i State Legislature, underscores the cascading impact of poverty and the urgent need for concrete supports that prevent families from entering the child welfare service system.¹ Youth and families with lived experience consistently shared that most families who come to the system's attention require support services—not protective intervention—to remain safe and stable.

¹ Mālama 'Ohana Working Group. (2024). *Mālama 'ohana working group report to the legislature: Findings and recommendations of the Mālama 'ohana working group*. State of Hawai'i. Retrieved from https://owr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/OWR-MOWG_2024Report_Combined.pdf

A central element of S.B. 3204 is the integration of trained, trauma-informed peer support navigators with lived experience.² These navigators are uniquely equipped to help families access community-based services and resources. Peer support is especially powerful because it connects families with individuals who understand their challenges firsthand. For children, parents, and caregivers, engaging with someone from their own community who has walked a similar path builds trust and strengthens the connection between families and the services intended to help them. This trust increases the likelihood that families will engage with and benefit from available interventions.³

The OWR is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD) regarding the potential use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for the proposed pilot program. OWR defers to DHS and TANF administrators on this issue.

The OWR respectfully requests that the committee consider the attached amendments, including an extension of the pilot program duration from one year to two years. A two-year period would provide sufficient time to develop policies and procedures, issue a request for information, and collect meaningful outcome data necessary to evaluate the program's overall effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Tia L.R. Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience

² Peer Support Specialist Working Group. (2025). *Peer support specialist working group report to the legislature. Peer Support Specialist Working Group Framework*. State of Hawai'i. Retrieved from https://owr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PSSWG-Framework_Final.pdf

³ Saeteurn, E. R., Wu, Q., Vasiliou, N., Mabingani, D., & Krysik, J. (2022). Peer parent programs in child welfare: A systematic review. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 129, 105682. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105682>

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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 resources are necessary to increase family resilience and reduce
3 the risk of child abuse or neglect. Many families at high risk
4 of entering the child welfare system are unaware of available
5 services or how to access them, or public benefits are not
6 available to address the economic or other fiscal challenge they
7 are facing.

8 The malama ohana working group was established by Act 86,
9 Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, within the office of wellness and
10 resilience to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes
11 to the State's existing child welfare system. In its report
12 submitted to the 2025 legislature, the malama ohana working
13 group stated there is a shortage of resources in Hawaii
14 dedicated to preventing children and families' involvement with
15 child welfare services, especially primary prevention and
16 universal support. The malama ohana working group recommended
17 the establishment of primary prevention and universal support

1 programs that are trauma-informed and culturally responsive in
2 an effort to divert children and families away from involvement
3 with the child welfare system.

4 The legislature finds that community- and school-based
5 organizations are safe, accessible, and non-judgmental spaces
6 where families can access formal and informal supports and
7 referrals. Providing family strengthening programming helps to
8 increase parents' protective factors, including: parental
9 resilience, social connections, concrete support, knowledge of
10 parenting and child development, and social-emotional competence
11 of children. Community- and school-based organizations, such as
12 family resource centers, have been successful in reducing the
13 number of families reported to the child welfare system.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
15 ~~one~~two-year family resilience pilot program within the office of
16 wellness and resilience.

17 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of
18 wellness and resilience a family resilience pilot program to
19 build family resilience and provide comprehensive specialized
20 support services to eligible families. The program shall:

- 1 (1) Hire and train five trauma-informed peer support
2 resource navigators to assist ~~a total of~~ up to eighty
3 families with enrollment in public or other benefits,
4 parenting classes and cultural family strengthening
5 program services; provided that each peer support
6 resource navigator shall be trained in alignment with
7 the recommendations of the peer support specialists
8 working group established by Act 88, Session Laws of
9 Hawaii 2024; provided further that each peer support
10 resource navigator shall use motivational interviewing
11 methods and serve not more than twenty families;
- 12 (2) Train program staff on eligibility screening to ensure
13 families meet temporary assistance for needy families
14 (TANF) or related eligibility criteria and connect
15 interested and eligible families with peer support
16 resource navigators;
- 17 (3) Assist families to identify goals and connect them to
18 community resources and supports and assist with
19 applications for public assistance benefits, housing,
20 education, or employment that are in alignment with
21 their identified goals; and

1 (4) ~~Establish~~ Identify monthly parenting classes or
2 cultural family strengthening services offered by
3 contracted or subcontracted providers ~~and connect to~~
4 ~~families as appropriate.~~

5 (b) The office of wellness and resilience may contract
6 with a third-party administrator to operate the family
7 resilience pilot program.

8 (c) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a
9 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
10 proposed legislation, on the family resilience pilot program to
11 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
12 of the regular session of 2028. The report shall include the
13 number of eligible families:

- 14 (1) Connected to and receiving community resources and
15 supports;
- 16 (2) That have applied for public assistance benefits,
17 housing, education, or employment;
- 18 (3) That participated in parenting classes and cultural
19 family strengthening services; and
- 20 (4) That reported favorable changes in their knowledge,
21 attitudes or beliefs, skill acquisition, behavior, and

1 relationships as a direct result of program
2 participation.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated or authorized from the
4 temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) funds the sum of
5 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
6 year 2026-2027 for the family resilience pilot program
7 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including the
8 contracting of services to implement and operate the program.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
10 wellness and resilience for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. If any part of this Act is found to be in
12 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed
13 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the
14 conflicting part of this Act is inoperative solely to the extent
15 of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly
16 affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the
17 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies
18 concerned.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
20 shall be repealed on June 30, 2027.

S.B. NO. 3204
S.D.1

Report Title:

OWR; Family Resilience Pilot Program; Peer Support Resource Navigators; TANF; Appropriation

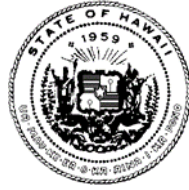
Description:

Establishes a ~~one~~two-year Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience. Appropriates funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding.

Sunsets the pilot program 6/30/2027. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 23, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3204 SD1 – RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill to further utilize federal funds to support families who may be at risk of entering the child welfare system, offers comments, and requests clarification. DHS defers to the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR).

This bill proposes to establish a one-year family resilience pilot program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience and to appropriate Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to support the pilot.

Pursuant to section 401, Title IV-A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601], states may utilize federal TANF funds for benefits, programs, and services that meet one of the following purposes:

- (1) Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (2) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (3) Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- (4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The proposed peer support resource navigator services described in Section 2, paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), may be classified under Purpose 1; therefore, “means testing” for TANF eligibility is required.

For the committee’s information, DHS is the specified grantee with the federal grants management and the authorized state agency to receive the federal TANF block grant and any reserve funds remaining from any grant year; therefore, the federal TANF funds may not be appropriated directly to other state agencies or entities. In addition, expending federal TANF funds must comply with the requirements and provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

Additionally, in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1611(a), an individual who is not a qualified immigrant is not eligible for any federal public benefit as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1611(c). Therefore, children and families who may receive benefits or support services through the pilot program must be either U.S. citizens, qualified immigrants according to the terms described in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.], or qualified individuals lawfully residing in the U.S. in accordance with the Compacts of Free Association. If the legislature intends the pilot program to provide benefits or support services regardless of a citizenship status, state funds will be required to service non-TANF qualified children and families.

The Department’s Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD), which administers the TANF program, will work with the Office of Wellness & Resilience, Child Welfare Services Branch, and the Family Resource Center Pilot Program regarding the kinds of monthly parenting classes or cultural family strengthening services that would be most effective to meet families’ needs and meet a TANF purpose.

BESSD will seek policy clarification from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, regarding the bill’s proposed use of TANF funds.

DHS respectfully requests that the proposed pilot program and any appropriation not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Date: March 24, 2026

To: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Senate Bill 3204 SD1, Relating to a Family Resilience Pilot Program

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai‘i’s youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports Senate Bill 3204 SD1 which relates to a Family Resilience Pilot Program.

Our organization is a strong supporter of the efforts of the State Office of Wellness & Resilience’s Mālama ‘Ohana working group and its recommendations to create transformative change within the State’s child welfare system, especially those which relate to the diversion of children from entry into the child welfare system or to the provision of trauma-informed care.

ECAS strongly agrees with the working group’s findings that there is a distinct shortage of resources specifically dedicated to preventing children and families’ involvement with child welfare services. And support the recommendation for the establishment of primary prevention and universal support programs which are trauma-informed and culturally responsive.

We feel that the pilot program laid out in SB3204 will ultimately demonstrate efficacy in building family resilience and providing comprehensive, specialized support services to local families.

For this reason, ECAS supports Senate Bill 3204 SD1.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3204 SD1 RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2026; 10:00 AM; CR 329 or via videoconference

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 3204 SD1**, which proposes the creation and funding of a one-year Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

The intent of this measure is to help divert children and families away from involvement with the State's Child Welfare system. This initiative reflects a forward-thinking commitment to Hawai'i's families by offering trauma-informed, early-intervention supports that can prevent challenges from becoming full-blown crises.

For 78 years, Catholic Charities Hawai'i has walked alongside individuals and families statewide who are navigating poverty, housing instability, trauma, and other life-altering hardships. Our staff regularly see how financial pressures, behavioral health conditions, and systemic inequities can strain families to the breaking point—too often resulting in homelessness, family separation, or involvement with the child welfare system.

SB 3204 SD1 offers a timely and proactive approach to strengthening family well-being. The proposed pilot program can:

- Build and reinforce protective factors within families
- Support positive parenting and enhance family stability
- Improve connections to behavioral health and social service resources
- Reduce long-term public expenditures tied to crisis response

This effort also provides an important opportunity for the State to test, evaluate, and refine culturally responsive and evidence-based models that reflect Hawai'i's unique communities and values. Strengthening family resilience today lays the foundation for healthy keiki, vibrant 'ohana, and more stable communities across our islands.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i respectfully urges the committee to pass this measure and ensure sufficient resources to support its successful implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure. If you have any questions, please contact Shellie Niles at (808) 527-4813.



To: House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
RE: **SB3204 SD1 – Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program**
Hawaii State Capitol & Videoconference
March 24, 2026; 10:00 AM

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB3204 SD1**, which establishes a one-year Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) and appropriates funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding.

In Hawai'i, the well-being of our people has long been understood through the strength of 'ohana. Native Hawaiian values recognize that individual wellness is inseparable from family and community well-being. Concepts such as lōkahi, the balance of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health, and kuleana, our shared responsibility to care for one another, remain foundational to resilient communities.

Families across our State continue to experience complex and interconnected challenges, including economic strain, mental health stressors, housing instability, and the cumulative impacts of recent public health emergencies and natural disasters. These conditions underscore the need for coordinated, prevention-focused strategies that strengthen families before crises escalate.

This bill takes a thoughtful and pono approach by situating the family resilience pilot program within the OWR. This placement promotes alignment across systems and emphasizes culturally responsive, community-informed practices established within the Mālama 'Ohana Working Group Final Report¹.

Establishing a pilot program allows the State to evaluate outcomes, identify best practices, and ensure that future efforts are both effective and accountable. The program shall also train trauma informed peer support navigators and assist families to identify goals and connect them to community resources and cultural family strengthening services. This bill provides our most vulnerable community members what they need in their times of need.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ Mālama 'Ohana Working Group Final Report (URL: <https://www.malamaohana.net/mowg-final-report>)

Judith F. Clark
48-218 Kamehameha Highway
808-499-9966
Judithforceclark@gmail.com
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 20, 2026

To: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Testimony in Support of SB 3204 SD 2 Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience

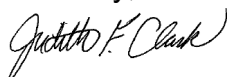
As a community advocate and the former Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network who worked for non-profit organizations for 50 years, I support SB 3204 SD 2 which establishes a pilot program to support families in need.

I served as a member of the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force from its inception and on the Office of Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board through December 2025. Over the past 4 years, the task force has developed a plan and strategies that will incorporate trauma-informed approaches to services provided to children, youth, and families.

This pilot program will utilize peer navigators, an evidence-informed practice, to help families identify needs and access services. It will provide material assistance to support basic needs. By strengthening families, it will reduce the overload of the Child Welfare System.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

SB-3204-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:08:57 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I **strongly support SB3204 SD1**, which establishes trauma-informed peer support resource navigators within the proposed Family Resilience Pilot Program.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina