

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
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KE KIA'ĀINA



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KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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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

February 23, 2026

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 25, 2026, 10:56 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, 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 program.

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 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, expending 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 federal public benefit or service as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1611(c). Therefore, families who receive services through the proposed 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 pilot program intends to provide services regardless of a family’s citizenship status, then 100% state funds will be required to serve families who do not qualify for TANF funded benefits or services.

The Department requests clarification on Section 2, paragraph (4), which proposes that the pilot program establish monthly parenting classes or cultural family strengthening services. The Department will need a description of the parenting classes or cultural family strengthening services to determine whether both may be classified under a TANF purpose.

The Department’s Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, which administers the TANF program, will continue to engage with OWR to assess resource needs to implement the proposed family resilience pilot program and 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.

The Department respectfully requests that the proposed Family Resilience Pilot Program and any appropriations not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

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



**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

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** SB3204, Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) **strongly supports** the portions of **SB3204** 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, 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**.

Sincerely,

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

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
415 S. BERETANIA ST. #415  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2026, at 10:56 a.m.; Room Number: 211

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

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.<sup>1</sup> Youth and families with lived experience consistently shared that

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://owr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/OWR-MOWG_2024Report_Combined.pdf)

most families who come to the system's attention require support services—not protective intervention—to remain safe and stable.

A central element of S.B. 3204 is the integration of trained, trauma-informed peer support navigators with lived experience.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funds**

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.

### **Amendment Request**

The OWR respectfully requests that the committee consider extending the duration of the pilot program from one year to three years. A three-year period would allow adequate time to develop policies and procedures, issue a request for information, and collect meaningful outcome data to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

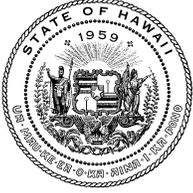
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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](https://owr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PSSWG-Framework_Final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Saeteurn, E. R., Wu, Q., Vasilou, 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>



**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

February 24, 2026

**TO:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, 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 -- RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM**

**HEARING:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 @ 10:56 am; Conference Room 211

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA supports SB 3204, 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 reducing child abuse and neglect among families in need.

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

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

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

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Shellie Niles, Vice President of Mission, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, 02/25/26 @10:56 AM; CR 211 or via videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports SB 3204, which proposes the creation and funding of a one-year Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience. 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 79 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 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 SB 3204 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.





*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
RE: **SB3204 – Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program**  
Hawaii State Capitol & Videoconference  
February 25, 2026, 10:56 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

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

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 Report<sup>1</sup>.

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

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



February 23, 2026

**Testimony in Support of S.B. 3204  
Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha United Way supports S.B. 3204, which establishes a Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience to strengthen families and prevent entry into the child welfare system.

Across Hawai'i, many families experience periods of financial and personal stress that can place them at risk of crisis. According to Aloha United Way's ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) research, nearly 40%<sup>1</sup> of households struggle to afford the basic cost of living, even while working. For these families, even a temporary setback such as job loss, childcare disruption, or unexpected expenses can create instability that affects both parents and children.

S.B. 3204 recognizes that early support and navigation of resources can prevent small challenges from becoming family crises. Many families are eligible for public benefits and community services but face barriers in accessing them, including complicated application processes and limited awareness of available resources. Peer support resource navigators can play a critical role in helping families connect to the assistance they need before situations escalate.

Aloha United Way supports the pilot's focus on trauma-informed and culturally responsive services, as well as its emphasis on community-based support and parenting education. Programs that strengthen protective factors, including social connections, parenting knowledge, and access to concrete supports, are proven strategies for improving family stability and reducing the need for more costly interventions later. Prevention-based investments such as these help families remain stable while also reducing long-term public costs associated with child welfare involvement and crisis services.

This measure represents a thoughtful and proactive approach to strengthening families and supporting long-term resilience in Hawai'i's communities. We urge you to support S.B.3204.

Mahalo,

Michelle Bartell  
President & CEO  
Aloha United Way

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.auw.org/about/alice-initiative/alice-reports/>

**SB-3204**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:20:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lynn Nguyen, and I am writing in strong support of SB3204, which seeks to strengthen support for Hawai‘i’s underserved and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) communities.

Across our state, many hardworking families are doing everything “right” — working full-time, contributing to their communities, raising children, caring for kūpuna — yet still struggling to afford basic necessities. ALICE households often earn too much to qualify for traditional public assistance, but not enough to achieve financial stability. They are one unexpected expense away from crisis.

This bill represents an important step toward closing that gap.

Underserved communities in Hawai‘i face layered challenges, including high housing costs, food insecurity, limited access to childcare, transportation barriers, and workforce constraints. When families lack stability in one area, it often impacts every other area of life — including children’s educational outcomes, mental health, and long-term economic mobility.

By investing upstream and strengthening systems that support working families, we reduce the need for more costly crisis interventions later. Supporting ALICE households is not only a moral imperative — it is fiscally responsible and economically strategic.

When families are stable:

- Children are better able to learn and thrive
- Workers are more productive and reliable
- Communities experience stronger social cohesion
- Public systems experience reduced strain

This legislation acknowledges that prevention and stabilization are just as important as crisis response. It recognizes that resilience is built not only at the individual level, but through strong and responsive systems.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this Senate Bill and continue prioritizing policies that create pathways to stability, dignity, and opportunity for Hawai'i's working families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to serving our communities.

**SB-3204**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:49:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:56:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Oppose

3204 SB RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.

REDUNDENT SERVICES? FISCAL IRRESPONSIBLE?



## HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Vonnell Ramos, President  
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President  
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer  
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

*Network Membership*

*Access to Independence*  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i*  
*Bobby Benson Center*  
*Child and Family Service*  
*Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i*  
*Domestic Violence Action Center*  
*EPIC `Ohana, Inc.*  
*Friends of the Children's Justice*  
*Center of Maui*  
*Get Ready Hawai`i*  
*Hale Kipa, Inc.*  
*Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.*  
*Hawai`i Children's Action*  
*Network*  
*Hawai`i Health & Harm*  
*Reduction Center*  
*Hawaii Island Community`*  
*Health Center*  
*Ho`ola Na Pua*  
*Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i*  
*Ka Hale Pomaika`i*  
*Kokua Kalihi Valley*  
*Kaua`i Planning and Action*  
*Alliance*  
*Lines for Life Youth Line*  
*Maui Youth and Family Services*  
*Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native*  
*Hawaiian Health Care*  
*Systems*  
*P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.*  
*Parents and Children Together*  
*PHOCUSED*  
*Piha Wellness and Healing*  
*Planned Parenthood of the*  
*Great Northwest, Hawaii*  
*Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*  
*Residential Youth Services*  
*& Empowerment (RYSE)*  
*Salvation Army Family*  
*Intervention Services*  
*Sex Abuse Treatment Center*  
*Susannah Wesley Community*  
*Center*  
*The Catalyst Group*

February 24, 2025

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 3204 Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program.

I served as a member of the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. Over the past 3 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 Family Resilience 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  
Executive Director

**To: State of Hawaii, Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**From: Emily Lau, Vice President of Human Services, Goodwill Hawaii**

**Date: February 24, 2026**

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB 3204**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Emily Lau, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Goodwill Hawaii in strong support of SB 3204, relating to the creation of a one-year Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR).

Goodwill Hawaii serves some of our state's most vulnerable community members—including at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and families receiving public assistance such as TANF or SNAP. Our mission is to help individuals move toward long-term self-sufficiency so they no longer need to rely on government benefits.

Through decades of experience working with at-risk families, we have seen firsthand the significant and complex barriers they face before they can achieve stability. Establishing this pilot program will provide comprehensive, early support to families who might otherwise become involved in the child welfare system, which is already overextended.

Peer support resource navigators—who bring lived experience and cultural insight—are uniquely positioned to deliver primary prevention and wraparound services that are trauma-informed and culturally responsive. These supports help families address challenges earlier, strengthen family resilience, and reduce the likelihood of crises that require deeper system involvement. For these reasons, Goodwill Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee to pass **SB 3204** so that appropriate resources can be allocated to support this critical effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Emily Lau  
Vice President of Human Services  
Goodwill Hawaii



**PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT**  
FOUNDATION

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 10:56 a.m.,  
Via VideoConference, Conference Room #211

**Regarding SB No. 3204, "Relating to Family Resilience Pilot Program"**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

We ask that you **strongly support SB 3204** to establish a one-year Family Resilience Pilot Program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience. Appropriate funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding.

**Partners in Development Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that inspires and equips families and communities for success and service, using timeless Native Hawaiian values and traditions. Since 1997, PIDF has served more than 171,000 people in over 75 communities across the state ([www.pidf.org](http://www.pidf.org)). PIDF has a strong record of managing complex, multi-year federal and state grants with measurable results in early childhood education, family engagement, and youth justice. PIDF continues to step to the frontline to meet the ever-changing needs of our low-income, remote, and rural families and communities, including operating a COVID quarantine hotel to keep families safe and healthy during the pandemic, to supporting families displaced by the Maui wildfires to heal and rebuild, to continuing to support and strengthen our most vulnerable children, youth and families as they navigate increasing living costs, unemployment, and loss of federal resources.

It is vital that this critical work provided by not only Partners in Development Foundation but the many other nonprofit organizations in our state continue to be supported through sufficient resources to impact the children and communities of which we serve. **We ask that you support SB 3204 leveraging TANF funds to strengthen family stability and well-being through targeted, time-limited support for those most in need.**

On behalf of Partners in Development Foundation and our many nonprofit partners serving tirelessly in our state, mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this request.

Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni, PhD  
President and Chief Executive Officer