



HB1322

RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Ke Kōmike Hale o ke Olakino, ka Lawelawe Kānaka, a me ka Pilikia Ho‘okuewa

Pepeluali 5

8:30 a.m.

Lumi 329

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB1322, which would establish a trauma-informed care task force that will help the state address the long-term impacts of adverse childhood experiences by urging policies and programs that can prevent and mitigate these experiences, including through culturally grounded approaches and interventions.

Native Hawaiians are alarmingly overrepresented in a range of negative mental health associated statistics. For example, psychiatric disorders are more prevalent among Hawaiian youths, especially females, compared to other ethnicities.¹ OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies, including targeted and systemic actions necessary to address mental health associated disparities, to help reduce the health inequities of Native Hawaiians and to better protect and uplift the health and vitality of the Lāhui. Accordingly, OHA appreciates that the actions urged by this measure would help to implement social determinants of health-based policymaking that can address what may be root causes contributing to the mental health disparities seen in the Native Hawaiian community, by focusing on early childhood mental health impacts while also urging the use of culturally based preventative and intervention measures.

Notably, this measure may particularly facilitate the implementation of recommendations made over recent years to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians. For example, in “Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian Women and Empowering Wāhine Well-Being,”² OHA specifically recommended interventions for our keiki in schools, by: (1) creating improved mental health screening, (2) addressing self-harm with gender-sensitive and grade-appropriate strategies for best practice in public schools, (3) working with trained professionals in mental and behavioral fields to ensure appropriate treatment and follow-up, (4) providing assessments of drug alcohol use disorders among adolescents, and (5) improving educational programs that address the risks and consequences of substance abuse.³ In addition, it is well recognized

¹ See Naleen Andrade, et. al., *The National Center on Indigenous Hawaiian Behavioral Health Study of Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders in Native Hawaiian Adolescents*, 45 J. OF THE AM. ACAD. OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY 26 (2006).

² OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING 19-25 (2018).

³ *Id.* at 25.

that culturally based programs that utilize Native Hawaiian perspectives and methodologies can address or mitigate underlying risk factors for both mental and physical health. The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, for example, has reported that “a strong positive Native Hawaiian identity and a supportive environment can help to mend the cross-generational transmission of cultural trauma and lessen the psychosocial and sociocultural stressors associated with chronic mental and physical diseases.”⁴ Furthermore, the Office of Hawaiian Education has provided additional data that enriches our understanding as to how the impacts of trauma may influence the school to prison pipeline, and of the importance of addressing such impacts as a means to mitigate the disproportionate impacts of the criminal justice system on the Native Hawaiian community.⁵

OHA recognizes that mental health programs and services that are aligned with Native Hawaiian cultural identity, values, and practices can have beneficial impacts on Native Hawaiian keiki and in strengthening the lāhui as a whole. As such, OHA re-affirms its commitment to address these matters as part of the task force and applauds the recommendation that agencies integrate connection to land, cultural trauma, and other Native Hawaiian approaches into its programs to build community wellness and maximize children’s resilience.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1322. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

⁴ NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH TASK FORCE, 2017 PRELIMINARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS 11 (2016)

⁵ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION, PŪPŪKAHI I HOLOMUA: A STORY OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION AND A THEORY OF CHANGE 24-25 (2020).



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 4, 2020

TO: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** H.B. No. 1322 – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE
Hearing Date: February 5, 2021
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Room 329

Bill Description: Establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support the Intent

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the intent of H.B. 1322 as it relates to the importance of addressing trauma-informed care, provides comments, and defers to the Department of Health.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences that occur during childhood and include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; neglect; household dysfunction such as substance use, or incarceration of a household member; domestic violence; and separation or divorce involving household members. ACEs impact lifelong health and learning opportunities and toxic stress from ACEs can change brain development and affect the physical body. Furthermore, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood and can diminish concentration, memory, and language abilities students need to succeed in school, impacting academic success. **ACEs, however, can be prevented.**

Supportive, stable relationships between children and their families, caregivers, and other adults can buffer children from the detrimental effects of toxic stress and ACES. The EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program targets our underserved and at-risk children – teachers must be equipped to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. If not, what may

result are increased instances of stress-induced behavior problems, inappropriate referrals to special education, and suspensions and expulsions.

As we work to increase access to quality early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must consider that every classroom should have a highly-qualified educator in it. A highly-qualified educator is one who can nurture our children with a trauma-informed lens.

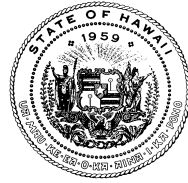
When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, these children who can benefit the most from early learning are rejected at an even earlier age and their families are left without options.

However, we have a severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators.

We would like to note that especially because the EOEL Public Pre-K Program targets our underserved and at-risk children, we work with the educators in the Program by arming them with the competencies to work with children who do not come from optimal backgrounds. We provide coaching and professional learning support through the Early Learning Academy and work with school leadership on staffing to best support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. We also have a strong partnership with the University of Hawaii system to advance the critical work of building a pipeline of qualified early childhood educators for the state. Additionally, EOEL has worked with the Department of Health and other partners on community initiatives to support Trauma-Informed Care initiatives, such as the Trauma Training and Support with Dr. Sarah Enos Watamura.

Should the Department of Health convene a trauma-informed care task force, the EOEL is willing to continue our partnership and participate in the task force's efforts to develop a framework for trauma-informed and responsive practice.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1322
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN K. TAM, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 2/5/2021

Hearing Time: 8:30 a.m.

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) strongly SUPPORTS the bill
2 and offers the following amendments.

3 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure intersects with the scope of the
4 Department’s Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a
5 comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public,
6 private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying
7 out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and
8 person-centered.

9 The Department acknowledges that years of research demonstrate the harmful effect
10 that adverse childhood events (ACES; abuse or dysfunction in childhood) have on health care
11 spending, health care utilization, poorly controlled chronic illness, obesity, substance abuse,
12 smoking, and other risk factors later in life.¹ Thus, the Department is committed to developing a
13 system of care that is trauma-informed: recognizing and responding to the impact of traumatic
14 stress on those who have contact with the system in ways that promote healing and avoid
15 retraumatization. This commitment involves infusing “trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills

¹ e.g., Hughes et al. (2017) The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Public Health*.

1 into organizational cultures, practices, and policies to create a climate of empathy and
2 respect.”²

3 Excitingly, other states³ have already begun to incorporate trauma-informed
4 approaches into health and human service systems of care. Such efforts have demonstrated
5 improvements in organizational culture, availability and uptake of evidence-based treatments,
6 use of trauma informed practices, and improvements in staff and caregiver knowledge and
7 attitudes.²

8 Locally, the Department is proud of its numerous efforts to infuse trauma-informed care
9 within current practice. This includes, but is not limited to:

- 10 1. Inclusion of a screener for ACES within initial mental health evaluations for
11 clients within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD);
- 12 2. A successful effort to minimize the use of seclusion and restraint in residential
13 treatment programs for adolescents in Hawaii;
- 14 3. Execution of a SAMHSA system of care grant project, supporting girls exposed to
15 trauma (Project Kealahou);
- 16 4. Development of routine staff and provider trainings on trauma-informed
17 practices;
- 18 5. Involvement in numerous trauma-informed care efforts throughout the youth-
19 serving system of care.

20 We also acknowledge that many other city, county, state, grass roots, and non-profit
21 entities have made significant progress in incorporating trauma-informed care into their work.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2019). *Review of Trauma-Informed Initiatives at the Systems Level*. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/262051/TI_Approaches_Research_Review.pdf

³ Missouri Department of Mental Health. (2019). *The Missouri Model: A Developmental Framework for Trauma-Informed Approaches*. Retrieved from <https://dmh.mo.gov/media/pdf/missouri-model-developmental-framework-trauma-informed-approaches>

1 That said, more coordinated, strategic effort is needed to maximize resources and formally
2 institute practices statewide. This is particularly vital as a result of the recent trauma inflicted
3 by the COVID-19 pandemic and community exposure to social justice issues.

4 **Offered Amendments:** In order to maximize the efficacy and impact of the task force, we offer
5 the following amendments:

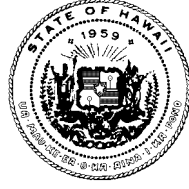
- 6 1. We recommend that the director of health be allowed to assign their designee as
7 chairperson of the task force (Section 2.a.1).
- 8 2. We recommend that the following members be added to the task force (Section
9 2.a):
 - 10 a. One youth and one adult consumer advocate, to ensure that consumer voice
11 is integrated into all planning and recommendations;
 - 12 b. The judiciary;
 - 13 c. A faculty member from the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of
14 Native Hawaiian Health;
 - 15 d. A community member or non-profit representative from the Compact of
16 Free Association islander community.
- 17 3. We recommend that the framework developed by the task force in Section 2.b.1
18 include an additional deliverable F: “An implementation and sustainability plan,
19 consisting of an evaluation plan with suggested metrics for assessing ongoing
20 progress of the framework.”

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

22 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department estimates that financial resources will be essential to
23 effectively lead the task force. Thus, we plan to draw on existing federal funding to finance this
24 effort.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 4, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1322 – RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.**

Hearing: Friday, February 5, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure, defers to the Department of Health, and provides comments.

PURPOSE: Establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State.

DHS will participate as a member of the trauma-informed task force. Creating a trauma-informed and responsive system requires "steady leadership and clear communications." A 2016 issue brief¹ from the Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc., remains relevant across sectors as it lays out strategies and key ingredients to implementing wide spread organizational change necessary to become a trauma-informed organization.

As the list of predictions of long term negative impacts of the pandemic grow, with particular concern of the impact on the mental health of children and youth, there is urgency for coordination and collaboration on a statewide, so children, families, and individuals receive appropriate support to build personal and community resiliency.

¹ See, https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/childrens_mental_health/atc-whitepaper-040616.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of

Michael A. Dahilig

Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Before the

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Houselessness

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Via Videoconference

In consideration of

HB 1322

Relating to Trauma-informed Care; Task-force

Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i is in **strong support** of HB 1322 which establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State.

Stress from trauma impacts all are lives; none more than our children as they develop physically, mentally, and socially. Adverse childhood experiences may continue to affect the lives as they mature into teenagers and adults. In turn, society may be impacted from the trauma experienced early in life that has been left unchecked.

Developing a task force to create, develop, and adopt a statewide framework for trauma-informed and responsive practice will provide guidance and practice for those who support a child's development into a healthy and productive person. Not only will individuals have a positive outcome but society as well.

With the added stress many of our families have experienced during the last year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this task force is an important tool in the long-term recovery effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1322

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:14:32 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Ikeda	Vibrant Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Yamane and Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness,

Vibrant Hawai'i is a multi-sector collective of Hawai'i Island residents who have embraced the kuleana of building community awareness, will, and action from the foundation of our shared values, shifting deficit narratives, systems, and policy that perpetuate poverty and inequity, and implementing strategies that are developed and resourced by the community and reflect native intelligence.

The very first community workshops that Vibrant Hawai'i hosted focused on Trauma Informed Care and Adverse and Benevolent Childhood experiences. There was tremendous interest and participation in the workshops, and participants included business/Human Resource managers, government leaders, faith leaders, educators, social service providers, health agencies, insurance sector leadership, and individuals representing community groups. This demonstrated an urgency to provide greater access to training opportunities for residents of Hawai'i Island.

In 2020, Vibrant Hawai'i was awarded a County of Hawai'i CARES grant to address the gap between on-island professionals and resources who are able to respond to and assist individuals who are experiencing trauma due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In partnership with Ke Ala Ho'aka and Associates (KAHA), Vibrant Hawai'i invested in the development of an island-wide Community of Practice that held over 50 Trauma Informed Care (TIC) workshops in an 8-week period and reached nearly 800 Hawai'i Island residents.

The impacts of this investment continue to ripple into communities through our network of island-wide community led resilience hubs, as each hub team has just received TIC and ACE's/BCE's training.

Vibrant Hawai'i, a body that represents individuals from all districts of Hawai'i Island, and all sectors, strongly supports the advancement and integration of Trauma Informed Care principles - and the first step towards that - by establishing a task force to provide recommendations for the State of Hawai'i.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Janice Ikeda

Executive Director, Vibrant Hawai'i



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Friday, February 5, 2021; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1322, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1322, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would establish within the Department of Health for administrative purposes a Trauma-informed Care Task Force to create a statewide framework for trauma-informed and responsive practice.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The experience of trauma has widespread impacts on the lives of our citizenry. This often leads to or exacerbates mental illnesses, substance use and physical health conditions. Because of this, in a truly integrated whole health system of health care, effectively treating behavioral and physical health conditions must involve the impact of trauma.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1322
Friday, February 5, 2021; 8:30 a.m.
Page 2

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of policy makers, health care providers, and government workers, the very services and systems designed to help people become healthy can be re-traumatizing.

This bill seeks to improve the quality of outcomes for youths impacted by trauma by establishing the framework for a statewide trauma-informed and responsive practice. Accordingly, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 5, 2021

Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN **strongly supports HB1322**, which establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – which include factors such as abuse, neglect and other traumatic experiences – have a potentially long-lasting effect on children’s cognitive functioning and physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. Research shows that most adults, regardless of their background, have experienced at least one ACE in their own childhood, and more than a tenth have a total ACE score of 4—a score which doubles their risk of heart disease and cancer, increases their odds of becoming an alcoholic by 700%, and their risk of attempted suicide by 1,200%.

Experts have warned that children are likely to be experiencing much higher levels of trauma and abuse due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that social emotional learning and mental health services are less available in a distance learning setting. With no end to the pandemic in sight, Hawaii needs a coordinated approach - from keiki to kupuna - to addressing the impact of ACEs. HB1322 will bring together a powerful set of leaders who can develop such an approach, truly making Hawaii a trauma-informed state.

Much of the change needs to happen in our schools. Intervention is crucial to mitigating the detrimental effects of childhood trauma. Implementing trauma-informed, or trauma-sensitive,

practices in schools can have a significant impact, including improvements in behavior, fewer suspensions and expulsions and improvements in academic achievement. With quality trauma-informed training for educators and school staff, schools can better support students to feel engaged and connected with teachers and peers. Trauma-sensitive training gives educators the tools to be responsive to the social, emotional and behavioral needs of their students.

HB1322 will help to spur broader awareness and access to additional resources, ultimately making Hawaii a more resilient state

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

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: Representative Yamane, Chair
Representative Tam, Vice Chair
Housing Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **HB 1322- Relating to Trauma-Informed Care**
8:30 AM, February 5, 2021

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of House Bill 1322**, which seeks to establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State.

Trauma-informed care is a structure and framework that recognizes and understands the effects of all types of trauma. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "There is an increasing focus on the impact of trauma and how service systems may help to resolve or exacerbate trauma-related issues. These systems are beginning to revisit how they conduct their business under the framework of a trauma-informed approach¹". Trauma can be caused by experiences in childhood, experiences in adulthood, and experiences to ancestors.

Hawai'i has a history of adopting legislation supportive of trauma-informed practices. House bill 1322 builds off of the foundational work of Act 217 (2019), Act 82 (2019), and HCR 205 (2019). As a state with Indigenous people who have been repeatedly harmed and suffer long-term consequences of actions against them, recognizing the historical trauma of Native Hawaiians and actively working to remedy the trauma today and in the future is crucial. Additionally, the positive outcomes of HB 1322 seek to uplift all members of our community.

The importance and value of trauma-informed care is recognized at both the national and state level. Over 26 states have passed legislation to address childhood trauma, child adversity, toxic stress or adverse childhood experiences². The task force created through this bill is very similar to the Interagency Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care established at the federal level³. Understanding adverse childhood experiences and trauma effect a person and how they in turn effect the community and state can help inform changes needed to create a more responsive, cost-effective system. Additionally, as we see federal agencies adopt more trauma-informed practices and programs, the work in HB 1322 will help Hawai'i become more competitive in securing federal funding.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests that your committee vote to pass this bill.

Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *SAMHAS's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach*, https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf

² National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/reducing-the-effects-of-adverse-childhood-experiences.aspx>

³ Interagency Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care, <https://www.samhsa.gov/trauma-informed-care>

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

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 (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

February 4, 2021

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Testimony in Support of HB 1322 Relating to Trauma-Informed Care

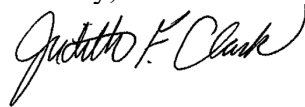
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1322 Relating to Trauma-Informed Care.

In the past year, we have all experienced trauma related to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic devastation, educational disruption, political turmoil, violence, and more. Many of us are dealing with the grief of losing loved ones. Health and human service workers are experiencing secondary trauma as they try to meet the many needs in new ways.

Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that services to our children, youth, families, and elderly use a trauma-informed approach. We need to prevent exhaustion and burnout among our most critically needed service providers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



LATE

Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

Date: February 5, 2021

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Where: Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY

By Kau'i Burgess

Director of Community & Government Relations

RE: **HB 1322 - Relating to trauma-informed care**

E ka Luna Ho'omalu Yamane, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Tam, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha!

We are writing in **SUPPORT of HB 1322**, which establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the Department of Health. We support the charge of the task force to make recommendations for a more systematized approach to trauma-informed care in Hawai'i.

Kamehameha Schools believes that the environment that surrounds our keiki impacts their ability to be successful in education and life. We also recognize that the environment of many Native Hawaiian keiki places them disproportionately at risk to suffer from social, generational, cultural, 'āina and historical trauma. Trauma-informed care aims to address these sources of shock as a key strategy to improve life outcomes.

We believe the task force proposed by this bill will elevate the discussion of trauma-informed care and improve implementation of cross-sectoral, collaborative solutions that value a cultural approach to healing and recognize traditional practices. For these reasons, Kamehameha Schools is happy to serve on this task force as requested in the bill as it directly aligns with the mission of our organization to improve the lives of Native Hawaiian children through education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Mahalo nui!

LATE

HB-1322

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:38:26 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center strongly supports this bill. The growing evidence of utilizing trauma-informed care justifies having a task force to explore best practices and how to implement them in Hawaii.

HHHRC’s mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC already utilizes trauma-informed care and will be launching a new trauma informed care training for the community later this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE



42-470 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. Bldg. 8 Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha House Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness,

Kinai 'Eha is a workforce development program that works with Hawai'i's most vulnerable youth. Through our work at Kinai 'Eha, my team and I are acutely aware of the critical importance of trauma informed care in serving not only our at-promise youth but how it can also benefit all individuals who have suffered any kind of trauma.

Making Hawai'i a trauma informed state will ensure that all state and county agencies and the programs and services they provide to our residents will incorporate and integrate trauma informed care approaches and practices in a consistent, coordinated and accountable fashion. We are in full support HB1322! I humbly request your support in passing this bill for the health and wellbeing of the State of Hawai'i and those that call Hawai'i home.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph 'Akau".

Joseph 'Akau
Executive Director
Kinai 'Eha

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 1322
Relating to Trauma-Informed Care**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of HB 1322 which establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health (DOH) to make recommendations of trauma-informed care. Trauma-informed care is a concept that is recognized and practiced by providers and clinicians at HPH. HPH would be able to assist in the process and welcomes the opportunity to serve on the task force.

A trauma-informed approach to care acknowledges that health care organizations and care teams need to have a complete picture of a patient's life situation — past and present — in order to provide effective health care services with a healing orientation. Adopting trauma-informed practices can potentially improve patient engagement, treatment adherence, and health outcomes, as well as provider and staff wellness. It can also help reduce avoidable care and excess costs for both the health care and social service sectors.

Adverse childhood experiences are traumatic experiences that occur during childhood, including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; physical and emotional neglect; household dysfunction, including substance abuse, untreated mental illness, or incarceration of a household member; domestic violence; and separation or divorce involving household members. These experiences can have a profound effect on a child's developing brain and body and, if not treated properly, can increase a person's risk for disease and other poor health conditions through adulthood.

Involvement of not only private health care providers, but entities at the state and county levels to examine all aspects of trauma and its causes will lead to a clearer understanding of the causes of trauma and its effect on individuals' lives. A comprehensive approach to trauma-informed care can lead to positive health outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

LATE

Papa Ola Lokahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair

IN SUPPORT

HB 1322 - RELATING TO TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

Friday, February 5, 2021, 8:30 AM, Videoconference

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 through the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Act (Title 42 USC 122), **SUPPORTS** HB 1322 establishing a task force on trauma-informed care.

Familiar with many effective programs in public health, domestic violence response and the justice system that implement trauma informed principles, we are encouraged by the commitment within this measure to exploring, creating, developing and adopting a statewide framework for trauma-informed and trauma-responsive practice. Beyond our family structures, the investment will benefit the fabric of society in Hawai'i.

We also endorse the goal to assure such a framework is sustainable by encouraging partnerships across multiple systems, government (local, statewide and national), industry and philanthropy.

Furthermore, we are in favor of the proposed diverse make-up of the task force. We uphold the importance of appropriate, community-based representation in decision-making and advisory roles at all levels.

Finally, the aim to "identify various cultural practices that build wellness and resilience in communities" makes it clear that blending trauma-informed care with culture-informed solutions is the true objective. For further reading, we recommend *An Assessment of the Impact on Social, Financial, and Cultural Integrity of Providing Health Care Coverage for Certain Native Hawaiian Culture-Based Activities*, December 2019, a report submitted to the 2020 Legislature, that can provide additional support for the therapeutic benefits of Hawaiian cultural activities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this measure.

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Daniel Goya. I was a public/private school educator for 15 years. I also have worked for a Native Hawaiian non-profit for 13 years, in which, I created a nationally accredited and recognized homeless 2Gen preschool and a 12-bed residential facility for adjudicated youth ages 13-17 that is an alternative to youth incarceration. I have seen the effects of trauma and how it is passed through generations. I am submitting testimony to express my strong support for HB1322 as I have seen first hand how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have negatively impacted children and families.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

COVID-19 can be argued as an adverse childhood experience for this generation. COVID-19 has been extremely stressful and is potentially the catalyst for inter and transgenerational trauma for our current keiki and future keiki. The stress and challenges of distance learning has impacted our students, teachers and families. Our communities have been impacted by the loss of life, sickness and the loss of employment. The pandemic paired with the tumultuous racial and political climate in our country has created a lot of anxiety. These events have contributed to toxic stress for many people in our state. This bill will commission a task force that would make critical recommendations to address these issues and promote a wellness and resilient state that employs trauma-informed strategies.

COVID-19 has also impacted our state's economy. This task force will be able to seek out pathways and make critical recommendations that can seek federal funding to provide relief to our schools, workforce and community health by employing trauma-informed federally funded programming.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.



House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Jeannette Bento, and I am a retired licensed social worker who has worked with Hawaiian orphaned by death and Hawaiian destitute children and their families for 34 years. Trauma is the pivotal experience unless understood and hopefully treated can affect their lives, and the lives of their moopuna.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Jeannette Bento, LSW

Social Worker

HB-1322

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:37:35 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tia Roberts Hartsock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members -

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill. HB1322 outlines a much needed effort to establish a formal approach around trauma-informed care practices for the state. As a certified trainer for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on Trauma-Informed Care, **I support this bill.**

I have been working with communities within the state and across the US for almost 15 years to establish trauma-informed practices that create awareness around the impact of early adverse childhood experiences. Trauma-Informed Care is based on the knowledge and understanding of trauma, its pervasiveness in our communities, and its impacts on our daily lives. The goals of creating trauma-informed practices and approaches simply focus on not triggering or re-traumatizing people and helping to build skills around emotional regulation.

With the current pandemic, now more than ever, our communities need to understand how to minimize the impacts of prolonged exposure to traumatic stress and develop daily practices, policies and procedures, and organizational supports to build healthy and resilient communities. The impacts of traumatic stress are well researched and best-practices in mental health around trauma-informed care can offer our state departments and service providers a framework to address the impacts of exposure to trauma, historical trauma, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue.

SAMHSA's efforts, as well as other national mental health organizations, have focused on developing and disseminating research on trauma-informed frameworks for behavioral health sectors such as child welfare, education, criminal and juvenile justice, primary health care, military and other settings that have potential to ease or exacerbate an individual's ability to cope with traumatic events and experiences. Within these frameworks, guiding principles provide service providers, families and individuals ways to increase their awareness on how trauma impacts their behaviors, how to minimize triggering environments, how to increase emotional regulation and create healthier ways to cope with stress.

During this pandemic, I have been overwhelmed with the amount of companies reaching out on a weekly basis for help to support their employees and families who are

struggling with this prolonged exposure to traumatic stress. The impacts of this pandemic and the social justice issues on our collective mental and physical health are yet to be measured. I strongly support the effort to increase formalized approaches to manualizing and instituting trauma-informed approaches and practices within our state system of care.

Lastly, I would like to humbly request to add family and youth representation to the task group, as well as Judiciary and higher education representation.

Mahalo,

Tia Lynn Roberts Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA

Community Member

626 Pamaele Street
Kailua, HI 96734

February 2, 2021

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni. I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families along the Wai'anae Coast, on Native Hawaiian Homelands across the island and in other at-risk communities on our neighbor islands. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for HB1322 as I have seen first hand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with along these communities in which I serve.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,



Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni, PhD

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Sanoë Marfil and I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families along the Wai'anae Coast I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for SB1242 as I have seen first hand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with along the Coast.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Sanoë Marfil

HB-1322

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 10:08:24 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KIANA K BOURNE	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the

department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Kiana K Bourne. I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families on Moku

o Keawe I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for SB1242 as I have seen first hand how adverse

childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases,

greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can

help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Kiana K Bourne

HB-1322

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:15:02 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiann Perreira-Benevides	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Tiann Perreira-Benevides. I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families within the Keaukaha community on Hawai'i

Island. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for HB1322. I have seen firsthand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families of Keaukaha.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death. The effects of unhealed and unprevented adverse childhood experiences are present in our communities. But through early childhood education we are provided the opportunity to assist with healing and preventing adverse childhood experiences from its continuous occurrence.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities with cultural practices that are paired with stable and positive adult role models that can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Tiann Perreira-Benevides

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Terry Nakamura. I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families along the Wai'anāe Coast. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for SB1242 as I have seen first hand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with along the Wai'anāe Coast.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,



Terry Nakamura

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is MarcheLe Rapoza I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families throughout. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for SB1242 as I have seen firsthand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Marchele Rapoza

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai‘i.

Aloha, my name is Myra Halpern. I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families at Hawai‘i Island. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for HB1322 as I have seen first hand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death. According to HB1322, traumatic experiences can have a negative impact on a child’s developing brain and a person’s stress response mechanism. Having a supportive caregiver, early childhood education paired with being a trauma informed community as well as maintaining ongoing cross-sector partnerships can have a positive impact and increase a child’s future trajectory in learning, education, health, and relationships.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Myra Halpern

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

HB1322 is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will establish a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Loralai Nakamasu I work in the field of early childhood education with at-risk and homeless families in the Keaukaha/Hilo area on Moku O Keawe. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for SB1242 as I have seen firsthand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with in the Keaukaha/Hilo area.

Research has indicated that an adult who has experienced 4 or more ACEs has an increased risk in preventable health diseases, greater chances at falling behind or dropping out of school, higher chance of using drugs and early death.

I work with Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practices that is paired with stable and positive adult role models can help lessen the effects of high ACEs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support HB1322.

Mahalo,

Loralai Nakamasu