



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/02/2021

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0812, HD1 RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires DOE to establish a threeyear pilot program for the development and implementation of a traumainformed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the NanakuliWaianae complex area traumainformed education programs and report to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 812, HD 1.

The Department is committed to enhancing student resiliency, promoting compassion and ensuring all students have access to a continuum of culturally responsive, trauma-informed/trauma-sensitive interventions and support.

The Department continues capacity building efforts to foster trauma-informed/trauma-sensitive education, implementation, and support across the state. Through teacher and staff trauma-informed/trauma-sensitive professional development, interagency partnerships, innovative initiatives, and a comprehensive and equitable system of trauma-informed/trauma-sensitive practices, services and resources are in place across the State. The following provides an overview of the Department's capacity-building milestones and initiatives:

- Act 271: In 2019, the Legislature passed Act 271, requiring the Department to establish a task force to create a system for evaluating and assessing all children and those who are exhibiting emergent or persistent behaviors, academic challenges, or chronic absenteeism, and are in need of appropriate supports and interventions accessible within the continuum of

a multi-tiered system of support. A comprehensive final report was submitted as a Legislative Report in July 2020.

- U.S. Department of Education Trauma Recovery Demonstration Grant Award- Ho`oikaika: In September 2019, the U.S. Department of Education awarded \$5 million in federal demonstration grant funds to the Department to support students from low-income families who have experienced trauma that negatively affects their educational experience through the accomplishment of four major strategies:

1. Strengthening core beliefs and mindset shifts toward trauma-sensitive schools focusing on empowerment.
2. Further developing the screening process to include behavior and/or social and emotional learning screening, as well as a trauma-specific screening tool to strengthen Hawaii's Multi-Tiered System of Support.
3. Identifying at-risk and improving progress monitoring.
4. Developing effective partnerships with stakeholder agencies and organizations.

The pilot schools for this grant include:

- Kailua High School;
 - Waimanalo Middle and Elementary School;
 - Kau High and Pahala Elementary School; and
 - Naalehu Elementary School.
- Trauma-Informed Practices Virtual Series: In August 2020, the Department sponsored and recorded three (3) virtual professional development sessions led by local-based trauma experts. This statewide professional development provided learning objectives in the following areas: Wellness and resilience strategies for distance learning, trauma-informed care strategies for preparing for the return to school, and the essentials of self-care.
 - Trauma-Informed Practices and Interventions Session for School-Based Behavioral Health Staff: In December 2020 and January 2021, the Department sponsored and recorded a two-session professional development on trauma-informed practices and interventions. Led by Hale Kipa, the professional development focused on the capacity-building skills of the School-Based Behavioral Health personnel across the state. These skills will enhance services and supports to include understanding the impact of trauma, the components of trauma-informed care, assessments, identification, and trauma-specific interventions.
 - National Council for Behavioral Health's 2020-2021 Trauma-Informed, Resilience-Oriented Approaches Learning Community: The Department is participating in a nationwide trauma-informed learning community to equip the organization with tools, resources, skills, and contacts to address the impacts of trauma and to nurture resilience.

The Department anticipates additional funds will be needed for the actual implementation of HB 812 based on the Nanakuli-Waianae's Trauma-Informed education program of nine schools and provides the following budget breakdown of the 2017-2020 Trauma-Informed education program for review.

Project HI-AWARE Expense Categories for Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area	Expenditure Costs
Salaried and Casual Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Behavioral Health Specialist 	\$572,996

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District Educational Specialist ● Part-time Teacher 	
Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom and Office Supplies 	\$12,760
Contracted Services	\$24,150
Conference Registration, Transportation, Lodging	\$76,892
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	\$5,641
Total for Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area	\$692,439

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

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



HB812 HD1 Trauma Informed Care Task Force

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

- Rep Sylvia Luke, Chair; Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
- Tuesday, Mar. 2 2021: 11:00: Videoconference

HSAC Supports HB812 HD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of over 30 substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

Traumatic stress can arise from a variety of sources: bullying at school, dramatic weather events, school shootings — even the day-to-day exposure to events such as divorce or homelessness. Children *and* adults can be affected by traumatic stress. Having the tools to manage traumatic stress empowers the members of the school community.

In a trauma-informed school, the adults in the school community are prepared to recognize and respond to those who have been impacted by traumatic stress. Those adults include administrators, teachers, staff, and parents. In addition, students are provided with clear expectations and communication strategies to guide them through stressful situations. The goal is to not only provide tools to cope with extreme situations but to create an underlying culture of respect and support.¹

FACT: One out of every four children attending school has been exposed to a traumatic event that can affect learning and/or behavior.

—NCTSN Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

¹ Treatment and Services Adaptation Center: Resiliency, Hope and Wellness in Schools:
<https://traumaawareschools.org/traumaInSchools>



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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 2, 2021

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN **strongly supports HB812 HD1**, which would establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature; and appropriate funds.

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%.

Furthermore, 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.

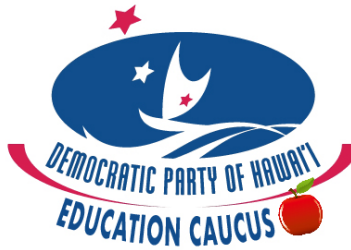
Fortunately, trauma-informed training for schools can have a significant impact, including improvements in behavior, fewer suspensions, fewer expulsions, and improvements in academic achievement. This has been shown nationally as well as locally in the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area, particularly through supports via quality programs such as Project HI-AWARE.

With quality trauma-informed training for educators and school staff, schools can better support students to feel engaged at school and connected with teachers and peers, building resilience by helping educators be responsive to the needs of their students with seamless, accessible social, behavioral, and emotional supports involving all school community members, as well as access to evidence-based, developmentally appropriate child and family services.

HB812 HD1 will help Hawaii continue to expand trauma-informed education through a region by region approach. By continuing to build the drumbeat across Hawaii for more compassionate student supports, we believe Hawaii students will graduate our schools in a better position for quality economic, social, and life outcomes.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



HOUSE BILL 812, HD 1, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION

MARCH 2, 2021 · HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE ·
CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports HB 812, HD 1**, relating to trauma-informed education, which requires the DOE to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature.

During the pandemic, demand for victim services for survivors of sex trafficking skyrocketed by 330 percent, according to the victim service provider Imua Alliance, driven in part by a fivefold increase in direct crisis calls from potential trafficking victims. Each of the victims service providers assist suffers from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim Imua Alliance cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily trauma bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name. Yet, sadly, many victims are misidentified as so-called "voluntary prostitutes" and are subsequently arrested and incarcerated, with no financial resources from which to pay for their release.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. At least 23 percent of trafficking victims in Hawai'i report being first exploited before turning 18, according to a recent report, with the average age of trafficked keiki's initial exposure to exploitation being 11. Based on regular outreach and monitoring, Imua Alliance and other anti-trafficking organizations estimate that approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments operate in Hawai'i. In a recent report conducted by the State Commission on the Status of Women, researchers from Arizona State University found that 1 in every 11 adult males living in our state buys sex online. When visitors are also counted, that number worsens to 1 in every 7 men walking the streets of our island home and a daily online sex buyer market of 18,614 for O'ahu and a total sex buyer population for the island of 74,362, including both tourists and residents.

ASU's findings are grim, but not surprising to local organizations that provide services to survivors of sex trafficking. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home. With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence. As one underage survivor told Imua Alliance prior to being rescued, "I can't be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I'm a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it."

Accordingly, the Caucus supports measures to advance our state's ability to stop sexual slavery, including this measure's effort to increase trauma-informed education in public schools. Through the establishment of a trauma-informed coordinated continuum of care, victims of exploitation may receive the services that they need to thrive, both in an academic setting and, more importantly, as human beings.

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 ·
kriscoffield@gmail.com**



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0812, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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. 0812, House Draft 1, RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

As received by your Committee, House Bill No. 0812, would:

- (1) Establish a three-year pilot program within the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a trauma-informed education program (Program) in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area's trauma-informed education program;
- (2) Require the DOE to report to the 2024 Legislature on its progress in implementing the Program, among other things; and
- (3) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same amount for fiscal year 2022-2023, for training purposes and the salary and benefit of one temporary twelve-month district educational specialist, to be located within the Office of the Castle-Kahuku complex area superintendent.

This bill would also take effect on July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion.

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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0812, House Draft 1
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 11:00 a.m.
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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.

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 is especially true in our public schools, where traumatized youths and their support groups may feel overwhelmed by bureaucracy and a lack of empathy that makes more often than no makes their situation worse.

To address this, the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex has installed a very successful trauma-informed care system that provides essential emotional, educational, and health care support to those affected by trauma. This clearly is a model that should be duplicated throughout the State.

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.



HALE KIPA

March 1, 2021

To: The Honorable Representatives – Ty Cullen and Lisa Kitagawa

Testimony in Support of:

Hale Kipa- a statewide youth services organization since 1970, supports HB812 Relating to Trauma-Informed Care.

The need for a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) three year pilot program for the development and implementation of a Trauma Informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli Waianae complex area Trauma Informed education programs is necessary more now than ever. COVID-19 has brought on tremendous stress, depression and suicide across the nation and on our youth, and Hawaii is no different. According to the data collected from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) of 2019, over 11% of Hawaii's teens and 13% of our intermediate children attempted suicide. Various recent news articles have shed light on the increase in depression and suicide rates that have shown up across the state. Hawaii's youth deserve a system that is mindful and deliberate in amplifying the infrastructure, support and recovery systems proven to be effective with a Trauma-Informed approach.

We continue to experience loss of loved ones, economic devastation, educational and social disconnect, violence, neglect and so much more and we predict that the YRBS data collected for 2021 will show more grave results which will further drive the need to address the overall mental health of Hawaii's youth. Our future leaders need to be supported in ways that are deliberate in strengthening their voice, resilience and opportunity to thrive. A Trauma Informed education program is a large step in moving towards wrapping our youth, the children of Hawaii, with the supports they unquestionably deserve.

Thank you deeply for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Brucia Hamm

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HALE KIPA

Director of Development and Quality Improvement

LATE

HB-812-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 9:24:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Spurrier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the bill and recommend that members from different professional organizations and boards who specialize in behavioral health, substance abuse, and other manifestations or symptoms of trauma be represented on the task force.