



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

Date: 03/22/2021

Time: 03:10 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Health

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, HD1.

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 and Pahala 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 objects in the following area; 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 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● District Educational Specialist● Part-time Teacher	\$572,996
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.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

March 19, 2021

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

Testimony in Support of HB 812 HB 1 Relating to Trauma-Informed Education

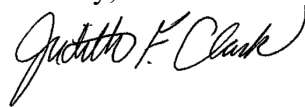
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 812 HB 1 Relating to Trauma-Informed Education.

In the past year, students and school personnel have all experienced trauma related to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic devastation, educational disruption, political turmoil, violence, and more. A trauma-informed approach to education is needed more than ever before.

The proposed trauma-informed education approach will be modeled after the highly successful program initiated in the Waianae-Nanakuli complex. It has reduced violence, bullying, and absenteeism. Reduced student stress leads to better focus and improvement academic performance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Education and Health
Monday, March 22, 2021; 3:10 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Kidani, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Joint 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
Monday, March 22, 2021; 3:10 p.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 22, 2021

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Education



Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

Testimony in Support of:

Hale Kipa - a statewide youth services organization since 1970, strongly supports SB812 HD1 Relating to Trauma-Informed Education.

The Nanakuli/Waianae Complex Area, Trauma Informed Education program of 2014-2017 proved to be a grand success. Within 4 years, the number of all class incidents were drastically reduced along with the number of suspensions. Additionally, the teacher retention rates soared. The opportunity to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a Trauma Informed Education for Castle, Kailua and Kalaheo Complex Areas based on the successful implementation in Nanakuli/Waianae are 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. The Castle, Kailua and Kalaheo Complex Area youth and HIDOE staff deserve a program that is mindful and deliberate in amplifying the infrastructure, support and recovery systems proven to be effective with a Trauma-Informed Education Program.

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HALE KIPA

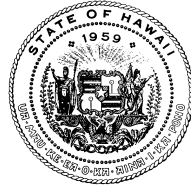
We continue to experience loss of loved ones, economic devastation, educational and social disconnect, violence, neglect and so much more and we predict that the YRBS data collected for 2021 will show more grave results which will further drive the need to address the overall mental health of Hawaii's youth with an educational system that is Trauma Informed. 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 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

Director of Development and Quality Improvement

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
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STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Health
in SUPPORT of H.B. 812, H.D. 1
RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION

Monday, March 22, 2021 at 3:10 p.m.

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Deputy Director, Behavioral
Health Administration

Aloha Chair Kidani, Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Education and Health Committees:

In alignment with §334-10, HRS, the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) is a 21-member Council responsible for advising, reviewing and monitoring the provision of mental health services statewide. SCMH members from diverse backgrounds serve as volunteers, collectively representing mental health service recipients, students and youth, parents and family members, providers, and state agencies including the Hawaii Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the Judiciary.

This measure requires the Department of Education (DOE) to appropriate funds to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed educational program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo areas of Windward Oahu, and based on the Nanakuli-Waianae program and report to the legislature.

The SCMH **SUPPORTS** this measure and offers the following comments:

- The SCMH has identified trauma-informed treatment as one of its priority focus areas in our 2020 – 2022 strategic plan.
- Within the proposed report to the legislature, specifically requiring a report back feature that includes sharing metrics and a summary of funds expended for this pilot program may assist with the tracking of funds.

The mission of the SCMH is to advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access treatment and support necessary to live a full life in the community of their choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.



HB812 HD1 Trauma Informed Care Task Force

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:

- Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair; Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

- Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
- Monday, Mar. 22 2021: 3:10: 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>