

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2482, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

April 1, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO WELLNESS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2482, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, amends Chapter 27, HRS, and does the following: 1) establish within the Office of the Governor (GOV) an Office of Wellness and Resilience (Office) as a semi-autonomous authority on a temporary basis and for special purposes to comply with Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution; 2) authorize the Office to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force established pursuant to Act 209, SLH 2021; 3) require the Office to submit an annual report to the Legislature that contains a summary of activities during the preceding year; 4) appropriate an unspecified amount of general revenues to GOV for FY 23 for the establishment and operations of the Office; and 5) provide an unspecified sunset date for the bill.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that

states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

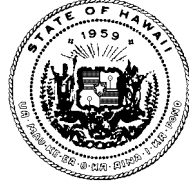
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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

March 29, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2482 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO WELLNESS.**

Hearing: April 1, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: The purpose of this bill is to establish a temporary office of wellness and resilience within the Office of the Governor. Authorizes the office of wellness and resilience to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the trauma-informed care task force. Appropriates funds. Sunsets on an unspecified date. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1) The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the placement of the Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor shall be for special purposes to comply with Article V, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that departments may assign additional employees from existing positions to the Office of Wellness and Resilience;

- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, established the Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Task Force within the Department of Health to create recommendations on how the State could become trauma-informed. Embedding trauma-informed care (TIC) response throughout government is necessary to bolster resilience and well-being, particularly now as we continue to see the pandemic's lasting mental, physical, and social-emotional impacts.

The TIC task force is tasked with: creating and adopting a statewide framework for trauma-informed and responsive practice; identifying best practices, including those from native Hawaiian cultural practices, with respect to children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma and their families; providing a trauma-informed care inventory and assessment of public and private agencies and departments; and identifying various cultural practices that build wellness and resilience in communities.

This work must be collaborative, cross-sector, and multigenerational. Most notably, it requires vested interest and commitment from all branches of government, private sector stakeholders, and community members to create and sustain needed change. Creating an Office on Wellness and Resiliency will assist with creating and embedding TIC across State government and could have a positive lifetime impact on Hawaii's residents and future generations.

The shift to becoming a TIC State is necessary. National reports document the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income families, children, and youth.¹ When schools and child care facilities closed, women with less than college degrees, especially mothers with children under five, left the workforce to provide child care, reducing family resources and increasing household stress. The impacts are startling for youth and young adults: global and national reports of increased anxiety and depression amongst youth,

¹ See, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf>

in the U.S., increased emergency department visits for pediatric mental health patients,² and continuing decreases in college enrollment, especially in public colleges and universities, since the fall of 2019.³ Also, due to school closures and the shift to distance learning, in addition to unmet academic needs, youths' social and emotional developmental needs were not being met during the critical child and adolescent development phases.

COVID-19 amplified the need for coordinated service delivery so residents could access benefits and services quickly and efficiently, and government processes did not create further stress and anxiety. While many new relationships and processes developed during the pandemic, departments need additional resources to lead and continue to make needed changes so that our systems and processes provide services mindful of "what happened" to a person and their families. Negative and traumatizing experiences trying to access government services leads to a loss of faith in government and less citizen engagement.⁴

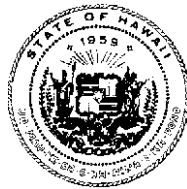
As part of the Wellness and Resiliency Office, DHS emphasizes the need to include employee mental health as part of the trauma-informed strategies. In a department like the DHS, the human services workforce has experienced significant and long-lasting stressors during the pandemic. The number of residents that need assistance for their basic needs dramatically increased and remains at all-time highs. COVID-19 highlighted a need to create an open and safe space for employees to address their anxieties, stresses, and grief while balancing the numerous programmatic changes, new technology, and changed working conditions. As we anticipate the end of the emergency proclamation and lifting of the mask mandate, we will need to support staff and the public through a trauma-informed lens as we return to the offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

² See, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2779380>

³ See, <https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/>

⁴ Watch, Jamila Michener, Ph.D., Fragmented Democracy: Medicaid Federalism and Unequal Politics, September 19, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gye6y1U3GUJ>.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

April 1, 2022

TO: Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
Commission.

SUBJECT: **SB2482, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO WELLNESS**

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

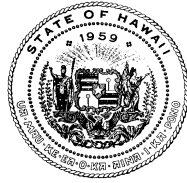
Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Corrections System Oversight Commission was created by Act 179, SLH 2019, to provide independent oversight over our correctional system. The Commission's statutory responsibilities include Oversee the State's correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and facilitating a corrections system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model. [See Hawaii Revised Statutes 353L-3(b).]

We strongly support the efforts for establishing a temporary office of wellness and resilience within the office of the governor. An executive branch management of developing a trauma informed care approach within the states system based on recommendations by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force can assure reform efforts can be implemented for systemic change.

Rates of posttraumatic stress disorder and exposure to violence among incarcerated males and females in the US are exponentially higher than rates among the general population; yet abrupt detoxification from substances, the pervasive authoritative presence and sensory and environmental trauma triggers can pose a threat to individual and institutional stability during incarceration.

Trauma-informed care demonstrates promise in increasing offender responsivity to evidence-based cognitive behavioral programming that reduces criminal risk factors and in supporting integrated programming for offenders with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2482 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO WELLNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 4/1/2022

Room Number: HOUSE
CONFERENCE
ROOM 308 VIA
VIDEOCONFERENCE

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health **supports** this bill provided that its passage
- 2 does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's Executive Budget.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.
- 4 Complex and prolonged trauma can have overwhelming effects on a person's physical, mental
- 5 and behavioral health outcomes throughout their lifespan. Research on adverse childhood events
- 6 known as ACEs, beginning in the late '90s, first brought the impact of early childhood trauma
- 7 into public awareness. This resulted in more attention to support services needed by young
- 8 children who have experienced traumatic events.
- 9 The good news is, more and more, promising practices are emerging that can shield children,
- 10 adults and families from the effects of adverse experiences and to prevent the worst of
- 11 consequences. And in Hawai'i, we have an incredible foundation of cultural wisdom and
- 12 practices to build upon that connect families back to themselves and their culture, which we
- 13 already know positively impacts their lives and communities. Culture is health.

1 While there have been siloed efforts on behalf of state agencies and departments to train up the
2 family-serving workforce in trauma-informed care, the Trauma-Informed Task Force is the first
3 step we have taken as a state in our mission to make our trauma work more collaborative and
4 strategic. We have exceptional challenges in the islands when it comes to trauma-informed care
5 because many of our populations suffer from complex trauma involving intergenerational
6 historical, cultural and/or racial trauma. This also presents an exceptional opportunity. We can
7 lead the nation, as well as those serving Indigenous populations, in sharing our mana‘o and what
8 we learn as the proposed Office of Wellness and Resilience implements the task force’s
9 framework. The ability for our workforce to provide the services children, youth and families
10 deserve has been severely hindered by the collective trauma of the pandemic and its effects. As
11 just one example, we experienced a whopping 25% increase in teachers leaving our public
12 schools during the 2020-2021 over the previous school year, and we were already in a teacher
13 shortage.

14 As a semi-autonomous unit, the Office of Wellness and Resilience would be able to more
15 quickly respond to the ever-changing needs of our communities, both now and into the future, as
16 we anticipate upcoming challenges such as new pandemics, immigration and the effects of
17 climate change. We urge you to create the Office of Wellness and Resilience to provide this
18 preventive and trauma-responsive care to Hawai‘i’s children and families, and stand in strong
19 support of this bill to create it.

20 **Offered Amendments for SB2482:** The Department of Health respectfully requests, the
21 following amendments to assure the Executive Director possesses the necessary qualifications to
22 lead this office (the department is willing to assist the committee in determining qualifications

1 for the job), and recommends a staffing structure as follows: 1.0 FTE for an Executive Director
2 position, 1.0 FTE for an administrative assistant position, four FTE positions to serve as liaisons
3 to departments to fulfil the objectives and purpose of this office, and two .50 FTE graduate
4 research assistants to support this office. The Department of Health requests the office be
5 permanently transitioned and housed to the Department of Health by FY24 and requests the 6-
6 1.0FTE and 2-.50FTE positions be funded by available ARPA funds until the transition in FY24.
7 Additionally, the Department of Health suggests, in an effort to better sustain and allow for
8 braided funding with a public and private sector approach, establishment of a special fund as a
9 mechanism for philanthropic organizations and federal funding opportunities to better support
10 efforts of the Office. Specifically, monies in the fund shall be used to address barriers that impact
11 the physical, social and emotional well-being of the State to implement trauma-informed,
12 strength-based strategies through identified best practices with cultural frameworks appropriate
13 to our unique population. The special fund can be administered by the Office and received by the
14 office in the form of:

- 15 • Fees;
- 16 • Grants;
- 17 • Donations;
- 18 • Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund; and
- 19 • Revenues regardless of their source.

20 Expenditures from the fund may be made by the office without appropriation or allotment. The wellness
21 and resilience special fund will sunset [XXX DATE, 2032]”

22

1 "**§27- Office of wellness and resilience;**
2 **established.** (a) There is established within the office
3 of the governor, on a temporary basis and for special
4 purposes, the office of wellness and resilience.

5 (b) The office shall be headed by an executive
6 director, [~~who shall be appointed by the governor without~~
7 ~~regard to chapter 76, and who shall serve at the pleasure~~
8 ~~of the governor]~~ through a competitive process.

9 (c) The governor may use moneys from existing,
10 unfilled and unneeded staff positions from other
11 executive branch agencies to appoint additional staff for
12 the office. Staff appointed pursuant to this subsection
13 shall be exempt from chapters 76 and 89 but shall be a
14 member of the state employees' retirement system and
15 shall be eligible to receive the benefits of any state
16 employee benefit program generally applicable to officers
17 and employees of the State.

18 (d) Department directors may assign additional
19 employees from existing positions within their respective
20 department to the office; provided that the staff shall

1 represent their respective department's needs and shall
2 have direct communication with the respective
3 department's leadership during the course of their
4 assignment with the office."

5 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure impacts the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive
6 Budget Request and the Department of Health requests this bill's passage does not replace or
7 adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's Executive Budget.

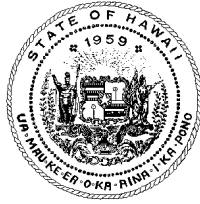
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2482, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WELLNESS.

by

Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Friday, April 1, 2022; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol CR 308 & Via Videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2482, SD1, HD1, which seeks to establish a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor, authorizes the Office to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding to accomplish the purposes of the bill.

PSD has been a participating member of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force since it was established in 2021 by Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021. The Task Force has focused on various efforts, including creating and adopting a statewide framework for trauma-informed and responsive practices, identifying best practices, and identifying cultural practices to help build wellness and resilience.

Over the years, the Department has experienced increasing rates of incarceration among people with substance use disorders and mental illnesses. This experience has helped to inform the measure's impetus to address the underlying trauma that can have lifelong consequences, particularly resulting in the preventable occupation of our jails and prisons. In addition, SB 2482, SD 1, HD 1, meaningfully provides an opportunity to coordinate our efforts to improve wellness and resilience in a systemic fashion between state departments and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2482, SD 1, HD 1.



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

March 31, 2022

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Coleen Momohara, Interim Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** S.B. No. 2482 S.D. 1, H.D 1 – RELATING TO WELLNESS
Hearing Date: Friday, April 1, 2022
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Bill Description: Establishes a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor. Authorizes the Office to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. Appropriates funds. Sunsets on an unspecified date. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1.)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports S.B. No. 2482 S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences that occur during childhood and include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; chronic neglect; caregiver and household substance abuse; incarceration of a household member; domestic violence; and burdens of economic hardship. ACEs impact lifelong health and learning opportunities and can contribute to toxic stress for young children, severely impacting brain development, learning, and overall well-being. Research has identified critical factors that predispose young children to positive outcomes in the face of such adversities and the capabilities that promote the development of resilience. Integrating strategies that enhance the capabilities of children and adults are further supported when embedded within efforts that collectively work towards lowering the burden of stress on families.

Implementing solutions to improve wellness and resilience embedded across State government will take cross-sector collaboration. EOEL is a member of the trauma informed care taskforce, established through Act 209, SLH 2021. As such, we support this bill and look forward to collaborating with other workforce members to promote wellness and resiliency for Hawaii's youngest children and their families.

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

To: Representative Sylvia Luke Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** SB 2482, SD1, HD1 Relating to Wellness
Hearing Date: Friday, April 1, 2022
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Location: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Description: Establishes a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor. Authorizes the office of wellness and resilience to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. Appropriates funds. Sunsets on an unspecified date. Effective 7/1/2060 (HD1)

Early Learning Board Position: Support the Intent

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony about SB 2482, SD1, HD1 on behalf of the ELB.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

Research has concluded that there is a direct relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and negative life outcomes for children ranging from chronic disease, drug abuse, depression, involvement with the juvenile justice system, family violence, and early death. Additionally, children with higher ACE scores are more likely to be disengaged from school. Poor mental health affects entire families; if it is addressed, it will reduce overall family stress and increase wellbeing. An Office of Wellness and Resilience would help coordinate social services and allow for more resources to flow into Hawaii for needed resources and especially support our children who have experienced adversity.

In 2018, the ELB and the EOEL (Executive Office on Early Learning) completed a multi-stakeholder planning process resulting in the production of the Hawaii Early Childhood State Plan, 2019 – 2024, which was signed by the Governor and affected State Department Heads. The Plan posits that children's health and their families' wellbeing are foundational for optimal child development and learning. The creation of an Office of Wellness and Resilience would enhance the opportunity to build that foundation for Hawaii's children. Our recent experience of the impact of the Pandemic on young children and families reinforced the need for offering trauma-informed care services in our communities, something an Office of Wellness and Resilience could provide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer supportive testimony of SB 2482, SD1, HD1.

SB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 6:19:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ranjah Jimeno	Promising Minds	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 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's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

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 29, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2482 SD 1HD 1 RELATING TO WELLNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 2482 SD 1 HD 1 Relating to Wellness.

I serve as the non-profit representative on the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.

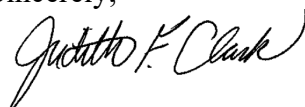
Formed in response to legislation passed by this body in 2021, the Task Force is currently collecting data on models of cross-agency collaboration to provide trauma-informed services. We recognize the need address trauma-related needs in ways that respect and honor cultural diversity. We are identifying assessment tools and government, non-profit, and faith-based providers can use to identify ways they can make their programs and services more trauma-informed. And we are working on plans to help organizations use those tools.

We know that the effort to help children and families avoid adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and provide comprehensive, coordinated, culturally sensitive services to survivors of trauma will require a long-term commitment as well as human and fiscal resources.

The proposed office of wellness and resilience is needed to help our children grow up safe, healthy, and ready to succeed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1506
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
<https://familyhuihawaii.org>

March 29, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawai`i State Legislature,

On behalf of Family Hui Hawai`i, I would like to provide our support for Senate Bill 2482 HD 1 establishing an Office of Wellness and Resilience. Please designate initial funds and positions to the Office of Wellness and Resilience. In order to fully take advantage of public and private resources towards the Office and its efforts, please consider setting up a Wellness and Resilience Special Fund through the language of the bill. As a parenting support organization serving over 1000 parents, caregivers, and children, prenatal to age 5, each year, we see the struggles that families face every day and the difficulty they have in accessing supports and services. An Office of Wellness and Resilience would help to reduce families' struggle to navigate our fragmented system of supports between the State Departments of Health, Human Services, and Education and strengthen families, especially in early childhood years when health, wellness, and education are tightly woven and dependent on each other.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health crisis across all age groups in America. Trauma-informed services for our youngest keiki are especially important during the most critical years of brain development and growth. Research on Adverse Childhood Experiences during the early years show a direct correlation to poor life outcomes including depression, drug abuse, family violence, and early death. The prevalence of childhood and family trauma and stress in Hawai`i has reached crisis levels since the start of the pandemic. The State of Hawai`i Early Intervention Services has seen a dramatic decline in infant and toddler social and emotional development. In June 2020, 1000 parents with children <18yo were surveyed nationally. Female, single parents and families with younger children had higher declines in mental health.

Research shows that 52% of children in families with financial hardship are facing emotional distress. The investment in the families of our youngest children is a needed and economically strategic use of funds. During these early years, learning and wellness is about the whole child, physically, cognitively, and social-emotionally. Early learning is not just in the classroom and does not begin at age 4 years at PreKindergarten. Learning is everywhere the child is – at home, at their auntie's house, family child care provider's home, early learning centers, and at home with their family. Families play a critical role in preparing their children to be successful in school and life. They are the constant in the many learning environments that their children will experience as they grow. It is important to have an easy access point for families to receive information about their child's whole growth and development.

Prevention strategies building family resilience, social and concrete supports, parenting and early childhood development knowledge are proven to alter the outcomes of early adversity, reducing overall family stress and increasing wellbeing. An Office of Wellness and Resilience would provide a critical step in building a strong system for supporting our children and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB2482 and HB1970. I urge you to move these bills forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cherilyn Shiinoki".

Cherilyn Shiinoki
Executive Director



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 1, 2022

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

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

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB2482 SD1 HD1, which establishes a temporary office of wellness and resilience within the office of the governor; authorizes the office of wellness and resilience to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the trauma-informed care task force; and appropriates 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.

This important bill would bring much-needed coherence and leadership to a critical cross-sector issue that impacts Hawaii at many levels: trauma. An Office of Wellness and Resilience is more needed than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has been directly or indirectly devastating to many of our community members. Kids have lost parents and grandparents, have faced stressors due to financial hardship at home, and have become deeply disengaged from their schools, peers, and teachers. Of course, children faced abuse and trauma even before the pandemic, and these cycles can be incredibly difficult to break.

Trauma is an immense, complex challenge, requiring holistic strategies that draw upon trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches. An Office of Wellness and Resilience would help to break down silos and increase cross-sector collaboration and alignment, including between government, non-profit organizations, philanthropic funders, faith groups, and the broader business sector. While there is tremendous work happening at

the community level, this Office of Wellness and Resilience would connect the dots between these place-based innovations, policy barriers and opportunities, and help braid funding streams.

This work can't wait, and nothing less than the health and sustainability of our Hawaii community depends on it.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



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

Hawaii 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 Luke, Chair
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: **SB 2482 SD1 HD1-relating to wellness**
3:00 PM, April 1, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2482 SD1 HD1, relating to wellness.

We ask that the measure be amended to include the requests by the Department of Health and designate initial funds and positions to the Office of Wellness and Resilience and create a special fund so that the office can receive philanthropic, state, and federal funds to support their obligations.

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 experiences¹. 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.

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. SDOH are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has showcased the resilience of the State's communities, but it also shows gaps in how social services and health care needs are addressed for different communities.

Cultural practices that provide asset-based approaches involving the stabilizing influence of an unrelated adult can provide a child with the resilience needed to mitigate a high number of adverse childhood experiences.

An established Office of Wellness will be ready to implement the recommendations of the statewide Trauma Informed Care Taskforce. For these reasons, **HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to amend and support this measure.**

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director Early Learning and Healthy Policy

¹ National Conference of State Legislatures, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/reducing-the-effects-of-adverse-childhood-experiences.aspx>
850 Richards Street, Suite 201 • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808-531-5502 www.hawaii-can.org • info@hawaii-can.org

Date: March 30, 2022

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
And members of the Committee

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for SB2482**, Relating to Wellness

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

ECAS supports passage of SB2482 which would establish an Office of Wellness and Resilience in order to coordinate a statewide response to the mental health crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide a strong buffer against the trauma and toxic stress experienced by our families.

A half century of careful research shows that there is a direct relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and negative outcomes later in life, including chronic disease, drug abuse, depression, involvement with the justice system, and family violence. We do not yet know the degree to which pandemic-related isolation and persistent stress will affect the brain architecture of our young keiki. We already know that many children in families facing financial hardship are exhibiting signs of emotional distress.

There is urgent need to take action. The prevalence of childhood and family trauma and stress in Hawaii has reached crisis levels:

- Since the start of the pandemic, Hawai'i Department of Health Early Intervention Services report a dramatic decline in infant and toddler social and emotional development
- 75% of adults with serious mental illness are parents
- 41% of Hawaii residents reported having suicidal thoughts on a recent online depression screening

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important measure.

Statement of
Meli James
Cofounder
Mana Up
before the
**Office of the Governor; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Trauma-Informed Care;
Appropriation**

Friday, April 1, 2022
3:00PM
House conference room 308 Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SB2482 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO WELLNESS

House Committee on Finance, Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

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

I am a community member from District 9 and I'm proud to support SB2482. This important bill would bring much-needed coherence and leadership to a critical cross-sector issue that impacts Hawaii at many levels: trauma. An Office of Wellness and Resilience is needed more than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has been directly or indirectly devastating to many of our community members. Trauma is an immense, complex challenge, requiring holistic strategies that draw upon trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches.

An Office of Wellness and Resilience would help to break down silos and increase cross-sector collaboration and alignment, including between government, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, philanthropic funders, faith groups, and the broader business sector. A more trauma-informed, culturally responsive model, focused on the needs of the whole person, aligns with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) vision of increasing access to employment and related supports for individuals facing significant barriers due to trauma. State policymakers and workforce systems have a unique opportunity to leverage the present-day challenges as a catalyst to reimagine service delivery through developing a more unified and collaborative cross-system network model, simultaneously supporting employment and mental wellness for survivors of trauma. The results could be individuals who are healthier emotionally and able to engage in work; a more robust workforce; and better long-term employment outcomes. This work can't wait, and nothing less than the health and sustainability of our Hawaii community depends on it.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB2482 SD1 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of Mana Up.

Sincerely,



Meli James
Cofounder, Mana Up



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Date: April 1, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Kau‘i Burgess

Director of Community & Government Relations

RE: **SB 2482, SD1, HD1 - Relating to Wellness**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Luke, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Yamashita, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike, aloha!

Kamehameha Schools **SUPPORTS SB 2482, SD1, HD1**, which establishes a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor to address related issues and implement solutions, including those identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.

Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui – When the child is nurtured, the people thrive. Kamehameha Schools believes that when we all focus on the well-being of our keiki, everyone will thrive.

Unfortunately, many Native Hawaiian keiki are disproportionately at risk to suffer from social, cultural, ‘āina and historical trauma. Trauma-informed care aims to transform sources of distress into anchors of resilience as a key strategy to better life outcomes.

As a member of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, we believe that Native Hawaiian culture-based approaches will serve as prudent and sensible solutions, along with other recommendations of the Task Force, and will positively influence the support and development of all vulnerable youth, resulting in greater educational, social, health and overall life outcomes.

We further believe that the establishment of a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience, as soon as possible, is critical in ensuring that recommendations from the Trauma Informed Care Task Force, including Native Hawaiian-culture based solutions, are top of mind and implemented to ensure our keiki are given the best chance of moving from trauma to resilience with the urgency it deserves.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **pass this measure**.

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.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Friday, April 1, 2022 - 3:00 pm – via videoconference – Conf. Rm: 308

Testimony in Support of SB2482 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO WELLNESS

The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) supports SB2482 SD1 HD1, which would establish a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor that would work to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.

SB2482SD1 HD1 represents an important means of putting into impactful practice the hard work, professional insights, and recommendations from experts in the areas of brain development, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma, and toxic stress at every life stage. These concerns are especially acute as we continue our response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe the timing is critical, as the stress, trauma, and ACEs recently experienced by our youth must be addressed immediately – to avoid preventable adverse outcomes that are due to affect an entire generation.

In demonstrating the need for action, NASW- Hawaii finds the following statistics remarkable:

- Since the pandemic started, State of Hawai'i Early Intervention Services has seen a dramatic decline in infant and toddler social and emotional development
- Children under age six have a similar rate of mental illness as older children and youth
- 75% of adults with serious mental illness are parents
- Hawaii has the largest percentage (41%) of self-reported suicide thoughts among people who took an online depression screening during the pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

 MSW, LCSW

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LCSW

Executive Director,

National Association of Social Workers- Hawai'i Chapter



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TO: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

FROM: Micah A. Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President – Hawai'i Community Foundation

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2482 HD1, Relating to Wellness
Friday, April 1, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports Senate Bill 2482 HD1. SB 2482 will help create a dynamic, coordinated effort across public agencies and community organizations to address early adversity, trauma and toxic stress—from keiki to kupuna. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has added stress to Hawai'i's families. Nonprofit social service, health, and early childhood providers have been shouldering much of the burden to support families. Now is the opportunity to step up support and increase collaboration to ensure that all families have access to the support they need. The proposed Office of Wellness and Resilience is an important part of supporting families with better access to preventative supports and needed services across the state.

At HCF, our CHANGE Framework focuses on six sectors of the community. The "H" sector is Health and Wellness, and HCF's [Promising Minds](#) Initiative focused on keiki ages 0-5 and their families. The outcomes of SB2482 strongly align with this initiative work and brings needed focus and resources for preventative mental health efforts. The creation of the Office will provide a vehicle for HCF and others in the philanthropic and private community to continue our support and participation on these much-needed efforts.

In 2019, HCF launched Promising Minds, a three-year initiative dedicated to improving early childhood behavioral health in Hawai'i by investing in the future of our keiki, especially those at-risk of trauma, abuse, and neglect. Promising Minds helps to strengthen early relationships and healthy development to set the foundations for long-term benefits to individual children, parents, and caregivers. Over the last three years Promising Minds has worked with over 100 early childhood providers and nearly 50 health care professionals/clinicians. HCF and its funding partners have directly invested over \$2 million in trauma-informed care and addressing mental health in communities in the last three years. Philanthropic resources like this are important and these private resources could be leveraged for greater impact by braiding different funding streams under the leadership of the Office.

HCF supports offered amendments for SB 2482 by the State of Hawai'i Department of Health in its testimony to the HHH Committee:

"The Department of Health respectfully requests, the 20 following amendments to assure the Executive Director possesses the necessary qualifications to 21 lead this office (the department is willing to assist the committee in determining qualifications 22 SB2482 SD1 Page 3 of 4 for the job), and recommends a staffing structure as follows: 1.0 FTE for an Executive Director 1 position, 1.0 FTE for an administrative assistant position, four FTE positions to serve as liaisons 2 to departments to fulfil the objectives and purpose of this office, and two .50 FTE graduate 3 research assistants to support this office. Additionally, Department of Health requests the office 4 be

permanently housed in a state department by FY24 and requests the 6-1.0FTE and 2-.50FTE 5 positions be funded by available ARPA funds until the transition in FY24.”

“§27- Office of wellness and resilience; 7 established. (a) There is established within the office 8 of the governor, on a temporary basis and for special 9 purposes, the office of wellness and resilience. 10 (b) The office shall be headed by an executive 11 director, [~~who shall be appointed by the governor without 12 regard to chapter 76, and who shall serve at the pleasure 13 of the governor~~] through a competitive process.

HCF also supports DOH’s request of an initial appropriation of \$960,833.

Additional Requested Amendment:

Add language to designate a “wellness and resilience special fund.” The special fund will better facilitate public and private resources during the time the Office is housed in the Governor’s office, and will provide for increased transparency for the finances of the Office by separating the finances from other functions of the Governor’s office. The special fund can specifically track philanthropic organizations or federal funding to support the goals of the Office and trauma-informed care work across the state. It will attract more funding sources that can enhance any state funds budgeted for the Office. It would directly support the proposed §27- Function:

“(3) Seek funding solutions using moneys that each department has access to, including federal, state, and private sources, and work with philanthropic organizations and other entities from the private sector to re-evaluate the State’s funding priorities and find funding solutions to implement interdepartmental programming.”

Adding this language as a bill amendment now would make it easier for braided funding and to track spending specifically for TIC projects. Having a wellness and resilience special fund for use by the Office and its collaborative efforts will help to leverage existing community resources and future funding opportunities by HCF and other foundations and donors. Proposed amendment language could include:

“Wellness and resilience special fund. (a) There is established within the state treasury the wellness and resilience special fund, to be administered by the Office of Wellness and Resilience (Governor’s Office), which shall be deposited all moneys received by the office in the form of:

- (1) Fees;
- (2) Grants;
- (3) Donations;
- (4) Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund; and
- (5) Revenues regardless of their source,

and earnings on moneys in the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be used for addressing barriers that impact the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of all people in the State through trauma-informed, strengths-based strategies; supporting agencies in their individual reform efforts to address trauma-informed care; and systems collaboration. Expenditures from the fund may be made by the office without appropriation or allotment.

We, at HCF, believe this bill is a way to address the urgent needs caused by trauma and toxic stress that surfaced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill creates a way to strengthen the supports available to families and make smart system improvements. It is accelerant for the change we are trying to make around health and wellbeing in Hawai’i.

Thank you for this public opportunity to testify in support of SB2482 HD1 and to offer a few amendments to the current language of the bill.

Support SB 2482 to foster a healthy, stable community



SB2482 is a transformative bill that would establish an **Office of Wellness and Resilience**. This new coordinating entity will unify public agencies and community organizations, leveraging resources and expertise to address early adversity, trauma, and toxic stress for whomever needs it—from keiki to kūpuna. It is a major step in building an inclusive mental health system.

In December 2021, US Surgeon General Murthy issued a call to action to address the mental health challenges—intensified by the pandemic—confronting youth nationally. Research shows 52% of children in families with financial hardship are facing emotional distress. SB2482 can help address this growing crisis in Hawai‘i.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has added stress to Hawai‘i’s families, nonprofit social service, health, and early childhood providers have shouldered much of the burden to assist them. This segmented scenario can make the path to securing help complicated for already struggling families.

It is time to increase collaboration to ensure all families have access to the support they need. The Office of Wellness and Resilience would support the missions of the many existing programs and the families they serve in an organized, strategic manner.

Why we need SB 2482:

- Since the pandemic started, State of Hawai‘i Early Intervention Services has seen a dramatic decline in infant and toddler social and emotional development.
- Children under age six have a similar rate of mental illness as older children and youth.
- 75% of adults with serious mental illness are parents.
- Hawai‘i has the nation’s largest percentage (41%) of self-reported suicide thoughts among people who took an online depression screening during the pandemic.
- Half of providers work with families and children that have experienced exposure to domestic violence and emotional abuse.
- In early childhood settings—child care, home visiting, early intervention, early Head Start—there is a shortage of practitioners trained or specializing in trauma-informed care.
- Practitioners believe an increase in trained, trauma-informed care professionals would ensure that children and families do not get lost when navigating systems.

What SB 2482 will do:

- Focus on solutions identified by the Department of Health’s Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, created by the Legislature in 2021 to make recommendations on trauma-informed care.
- Encourage major departments working with families and individuals within the state to become trauma informed.
- Create a dynamic, coordinated effort across public agencies and community organizations to address early adversity, trauma, and toxic stress.
- Facilitate training of practitioners such as therapists and other mental health professionals.
- Increase capability to respond to early intervention needs on all islands.
- Open up funding opportunities for which Hawai‘i currently does not qualify by fostering collaboration between state, city, and community agencies.

Why focus on trauma?

Trauma is any event or series of events that is experienced or witnessed by an individual and has long-lasting social, physical, spiritual, or psychological effects. Research shows that experiences in the first few years of life build changes into the biology of the human body that, in turn, influence a person’s lifelong physical, mental, and spiritual health. Traumatic childhood experiences such as physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; untreated mental illness; incarceration of a household member; domestic violence; and separation or divorce involving household members can have a profound effect on a child’s developing brain and body. Trauma is pervasive and if not treated properly, can lead to incalculable human costs and enormous economic costs. Lifelong impacts include increased risks for poor physical and mental health and alcoholism and drug abuse, as well as increased state spending across multiple programs, linked to lifetime costs of approximately \$200,000 per child. The good news is that trauma can be addressed through individual, family, and community healing, and that in turn contributes to overall health and wellness.



SB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 2:14:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justina Acevedo-Cross	Hawaii Community Foundation	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I stand by the written testimony submitted by Hawaii Community Foundation President & CEO, Micah Kane. If the committee chair offers the opportunity, I will provide oral testimony on behalf of Hawaii Community Foundation at the hearing. Mahalo.



TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: April 1, 2022; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 308/Video Conference

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2482 SD 1 HD 1 - RELATING TO WELLNESS

We support SB 2482 which establishes a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor, authorizes the Office to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including issues and solutions identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, and appropriates moneys.

Trauma and toxic stress, especially in children, derails healthy development. It can weaken the architecture of the developing brain and has long-term consequences on learning, behavior and physical and cognitive development. The landscape of our communities has also changed, exacerbated by the stressors of the global pandemic, to negatively impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society who often experience greater levels of trauma and toxic stress. The increased financial instability, housing instability, food instability, health instability, increased crime and substance abuse, and strained social, emotional and mental well-being directly impacts the levels of stress being experienced by children and families. These impacts have long-lasting and multi-generational consequences and impacts our ability to create healthy and thriving communities. Supporting children and families strengthens the fabric of our entire community. The Office of Wellness and Resilience will help create a dynamic, coordinated effort across public agencies and community organizations to address early adversity, trauma and toxic stress—from keiki to kupuna.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to under-resourced families. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community strengthening programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2482**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Date: April 1, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Where: Conference Room 308

UPDATED TESTIMONY

By Kau‘i Burgess

Director of Community & Government Relations

RE: **SB 2482, SD1, HD1 - Relating to Wellness**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Luke, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Yamashita, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike, aloha!

Kamehameha Schools **SUPPORTS, with amendments**, SB 2482, SD1, HD1, which establishes a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the Governor to address related issues and implement solutions, including those identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.

Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui – When the child is nurtured, the people thrive. Kamehameha Schools believes that when we all focus on the well-being of our keiki, everyone will thrive.

Unfortunately, many Native Hawaiian keiki are disproportionately at risk to suffer from social, cultural, ‘āina and historical trauma. Trauma-informed care aims to transform sources of distress into anchors of resilience as a key strategy to better life outcomes.

As a member of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, we believe that Native Hawaiian culture-based approaches will serve as prudent and sensible solutions, along with other recommendations of the Task Force, and will positively influence the support and development of all vulnerable youth, resulting in greater educational, social, health and overall life outcomes.

We further believe that the establishment of a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience, as soon as possible, is critical in ensuring that recommendations from the Trauma Informed Care Task Force, including Native Hawaiian-culture based solutions, are top of mind and implemented to ensure our keiki are given the best chance of moving from trauma to resilience with the urgency it deserves.

We advocate that the Office be adequately staffed, using existing ARPA funds, and for its director to be competitively selected, to ensure the Office possesses the capacity and qualifications necessary to accomplish its purpose.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **pass this measure** with the suggested amendments.

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.

SB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:50:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Kitajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

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

As co-chair of the Youth Services Committee of the State's Workforce Development Council. I support SB2482 SD1 HD1. Trauma Informed Care is one of our three primary focuses. This is a critical and complex issue with many stakeholders. An Office of Wellness and Resilience would help to break down silos and increase cross-sector collaboration and alignment, including between government, non-profit organizations, philanthropic funders, faith groups, and the broader business sector. While there is tremendous work happening at the community level, this Office of Wellness and Resilience would connect the dots between these place-based innovations, policy barriers and opportunities, and help braid funding streams. Please support SB2482 SD1 HD1 so we can support and serve our youth, who are the future of Hawaii. Mahalo, Ian Kitajima

SB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 1:25:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Abellera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2482, and strongly feel that this one of the most important things we can do to remedy our health crisis here in Hawaii. COVID-19 pandemic revealed to us the need to have supports against trauma and toxic stress, from our youngest to oldest of residents. Poor mental health affects the entire family, and if addressed we can increase the wellbeings of our families. Please consider moving this along, thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice-Chair
4/01/22 3:00 p.m.

Aloha committee members,

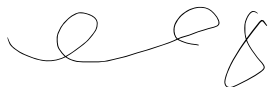
SB2482, Relating to Wellness is an important bill relating to trauma-informed care. It will create an office that will carry on the suggested work of the ACT 209 TIC Task Force that will improve the lives of many who have suffered from trauma and stress before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the State of Hawai'i.

Aloha, my name is Danny Goya, I work in the field of trauma-informed care throughout the state along the state. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for SB2482 as I have seen first hand how adverse childhood experiences have negatively impacted the children and families I work with throughout the State of Hawai'i. I have seen first-hand how COVID-19 has led to so much trauma in our community. I've worked with rural and remote schools and have seen the toll it has taken on students, teachers, staff and parents.

Through the Partners in Development Foundation, I created the Ka Pa'alana Homeless Preschool. The first nationally accredited preschool that serviced "houseless" families along the Wai'anae Coast. My goal was to disrupt poverty and the "pipeline to prison." I felt that early education and providing social service supports for families was a practical strategy. I also created the Ke Kama Pono Safe House, an alternative to youth incarceration. We managed to reverse the recidivism rate my employing cultural practices, strengths-based mentoring, and an aggressive credit recovery program. All of these programs that I mentioned are considered, "Protective Factors" that can mitigate the effects of trauma and prevent future ACEs for our keiki and community. This bill can put the structure in place to meet that can ensure that we disrupt and address poverty and negative social determinants of health. The case for supporting early childhood education has been well documented and supported by this Committee, similarly, supporting this bill will have a significant return on investment.

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 results of NOT addressing the issue of trauma and preventing future ACEs will have a negative economic impact on our communities. The proposed office will allow braided funding with state, federal and private funding to support wellness and resilience in our communities. Our current strategy is often a "silo" approach to solutions. Each state department has different and specific charges, funding and strategies, that may or may not work in cooperation with other agencies, non-profits and community providers. SB2482, will allow various departments to work alongside each other and in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please support SB2482.



Daniel Goya

Apelila 1, 2022

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Aloha mai e Lunaho‘omalua Luke, Hope Lunaho‘omalua Yamashita,

a me nā Lālā o ke Komite,

‘O Phoenix Maimiti Valentine kēia. Noho au ma ‘Amelika Hui Pū ‘ia, akā, ua hānau ‘ia au a hānai ‘ia ma Hawai‘i nei. He haumāna au. Kako‘o au ia **SB2482 SD1 HD1**. Aloha, I’m Phoenix. I live in the continental United States but I was born and raised in Hawai‘i. I am a student. I support **SB2482 SD1 HD1**.

SB2482 SD1 HD1 proposes an Office of Wellness and Resilience. Brilliant! Optimal health and wellness is a lifestyle practiced by many ancient cultures prevalent in Hawai‘i nei. My ancestors were practitioners of wellbeing. It’s a lifestyle to be aware of having balance in the mist of daily traumas. Balance is a blessing. It’s worthwhile to strive for it!

Americans are pressured to fulfill expectations of society. They forget about their health and themselves. This mindset contributes to a wealth of problems and traumas. However, if people were taught to honor themselves, by eating healthy, getting adequate amounts of rest, and daily exercise, that would be a start for them to honor others. Meditation focuses the mind and helps us reach our optimal potential. Positive thinking could reshape our future.

SB2482 SD1 HD1 may be a start to addressing profound trauma in a simple everyday way. Mahalo ia oukou no ka ho‘olohe ana mai! E mālama kākou!

Aloha, Phoenix Maimiti Valentine

To: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

From: Mari Uehara, M.D.
Developmental-behavioral pediatrics
Kapiolani Medical Center Women and Children
Clinical assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, JABSOM

Subject measure: SB 2482 RELATING TO WELLNESS

Hearing date: Friday, April 1, 2022

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: video conference
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Position: support

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony as a developmental-behavioral pediatrician. I strongly support SB2482, relating to wellness.

I am a pediatrician by discipline who is specialized in children's development and learning. I work with children who have developmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disabilities, and learning disabilities, as well as with their families.

Some children who are referred to me were born healthy without medical problems. Medical problems, of course, can show up later in their lives. However, there are other children who sustained significant trauma in their short lives physically and/or psychologically. After their lives are saved in critical care units, we as adults need to gain their trust back.

These children may be placed in foster homes that is often not permanent. Caregivers and teachers in childcare and preschools may be the constant in their lives. Or children may find hope in interacting with other children in nurturing environment to gain strength to carry on their lives. Current COVID-19 pandemic also add another layer of challenge in caring for these children who experienced trauma.

I have witnessed increased behavioral challenges in children at home and in group setting such as daycare, preschool/school over the course of COVID-19. Some children were asked to leave multiple times from preschools, some children needed to add services in schools, and others were hospitalized in psychiatric unit. Their parents and caregivers have been already under a lot of stress due to living cost and work situation during the pandemic. They receive notice that their children cannot return to preschool due to their behaviors. The preschool teachers were probably also under similar stress which makes it more difficult in addressing the challenging behaviors of

children. Adults around the developing children should be able to have enough knowledge and skills to respond, not react, to children who need support. It is not fair to label children having disorder when difficulties were not understood and addressed appropriately due to the lack of skills and patience in adults.

One of the most important things we can do to remedy the mental health crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic is to help to buffer against trauma and toxic stress for our families. A great starting point would be better coordinated trauma-informed social services. An Office of Wellness and Resilience would help with that coordination and allow for more resources to flow into Hawai'i for needed services.

Suggestions to SB 2482 HD 1: The proposed coordination through the Office of Wellness and Resilience will help to maximize resource and better utilize and blend public and private funds for healthy development and a lifetime of wellness. Please designate initial funds and positions to the Office of Wellness and Resilience. In order to fully take advantage of public and private resources towards the Office and its efforts, please consider setting up a Wellness and Resilience Special Fund through the language of the bill.

Research has concluded the direct relationship between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and negative life outcomes. The more people who interact with children have knowledge and skills to address needs of children who experienced trauma, the more children have chances to grow resilient who then be able to support others as they grow up.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony. I urge you to move this bill onward.

Mari Uehara, M.D.
Developmental-behavioral pediatrics