

MAR 10 2023

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE ESTABLISH THE  
MALAMA OHANA WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY, DESIGN, AND  
RECOMMEND TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES TO THE STATE'S CHILD  
WELFARE SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, there is increasing criticism of the State's child  
2 welfare system, which is accentuated when there is a tragedy;  
3 and

4  
5 WHEREAS, shortcomings in the State's child welfare system  
6 are not new, and there is a strong desire in the community to  
7 address these concerns; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, although Native Hawaiian children and families are  
10 overrepresented in the State's child welfare system, all  
11 children in the system have similar issues and needs; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, in 2018 members of Nā Kama a Hāloa, a network of  
14 community-based organizations and representatives of the  
15 Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services Branch,  
16 came together to seek ways to address overrepresentation of  
17 Native Hawaiians in the State's child welfare system; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Nā Kama a Hāloa demonstrates the value of  
20 collaborating for collective impact, and since its formation,  
21 the efforts of its working groups have resulted in various  
22 positive outcomes, including requiring cultural training  
23 programs for new Child Welfare Services Branch workers and  
24 resource caregivers and a greater focus by the Department of  
25 Human Services on supporting and encouraging children in the  
26 child welfare system to connect with their siblings and  
27 reflecting the voices of the childrens' parents in their care;  
28 and

29



1 WHEREAS, the problems faced by children and families in the  
2 State's child welfare system are extremely complex and cannot be  
3 resolved by the Department of Human Services alone; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the State must work with the community and various  
6 stakeholders to address and resolve these diverse and multi-  
7 faceted problems; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, Act 291, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, established  
10 the Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Office of the  
11 Governor on a temporary basis; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the Office of Wellness and Resilience was  
14 established to address the various barriers that impact the  
15 physical, social, and emotional well-being of all people in the  
16 State by building wellness and resilience through trauma-  
17 informed, strength-based strategies and support agencies in  
18 their individual efforts to address trauma-informed care and  
19 move toward a collaborative, shared purpose of collective system  
20 reform; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the Office of Wellness and Resilience is uniquely  
23 equipped to host a Malama Ohana working group that consists of  
24 members of the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare  
25 Services Branch, institutions serving Native Hawaiians,  
26 contracted service providers, community-based organizations,  
27 birth parents, and youth with lived experience in the State's  
28 child welfare system; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, the Malama Ohana working group can expand on the  
31 work done by Nā Kama a Hāloa to identify and recommend  
32 transformative changes to the State's child welfare system,  
33 which will improve outcomes for all children and families in the  
34 State's child welfare system; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, the Malama Ohana working group can also contribute  
37 to the development of more effective community support while  
38 allowing the community to be heard and to take more  
39 responsibility for the well-being and welfare of children; now,  
40 therefore,  
41



# S.C.R. NO. 88

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Wellness  
4 and Resilience is requested to establish the Malama Ohana  
5 working group to identify, design, and recommend transformative  
6 changes to the State's child welfare system; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
9 to consist of the following individuals or their designees:  
10

- 11 (1) The Executive Director of Effective Planning and  
12 Innovative Communication, Inc., operating as EPIC  
13 'Ohana, Inc., who is requested to serve as co-chair of  
14 the working group;  
15
- 16 (2) The Chief Executive Office of Hale Kipa, Inc., who is  
17 requested to serve as co-chair of the working group;  
18
- 19 (3) The Director of Human Services;  
20
- 21 (4) Two members of the Department of Human Services' Child  
22 Welfare Services Branch, representing its  
23 investigators, case managers, or assistants, to be  
24 appointed by the Director of Human Services;  
25
- 26 (5) The Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience;  
27
- 28 (6) The Chairperson of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force  
29 established pursuant to Act 209, Session Laws of  
30 Hawaii 2021;  
31
- 32 (7) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian  
33 Affairs;  
34
- 35 (8) The Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools; and  
36
- 37 (9) The President and Chief Executive Officer of  
38 Lili'uokalani Trust; and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the co-chairs of the working  
41 group are requested to invite the following individuals to  
42 participate in the working group:



# S.C.R. NO. 88

- 1
- 2 (1) Two former foster youth;
- 3
- 4 (2) Two birth parents who were involved in the Department
- 5 of Human Services' Child Welfare Services Branch;
- 6
- 7 (3) Two licensed resource caregivers; and
- 8
- 9 (4) Two kinship resource caregivers; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
12 to:

- 13
- 14 (1) Conduct informational meetings through the State with
- 15 affected constituencies;
- 16
- 17 (2) Convene meetings to develop recommendations to better
- 18 coordinate and improve the protection and well-being
- 19 of children and families in the State's child welfare
- 20 system;
- 21
- 22 (3) Identify training, best practices, assessment
- 23 criteria, and methods to sustain an effective
- 24 workforce within the Child Welfare Services Branch and
- 25 within the larger circle of community agencies serving
- 26 the child welfare system;
- 27
- 28 (4) Identify best practices, including any Native Hawaiian
- 29 cultural practices, to assist children and youth and
- 30 their families who are involved in the child welfare
- 31 system;
- 32
- 33 (5) Identify other cultural practices that build wellness
- 34 and resilience in communities and collaboration
- 35 between communities and the Child Welfare Services
- 36 Branch; and
- 37
- 38 (6) Collaborate with the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force
- 39 and, where appropriate, conduct joint informational
- 40 meetings; and
- 41



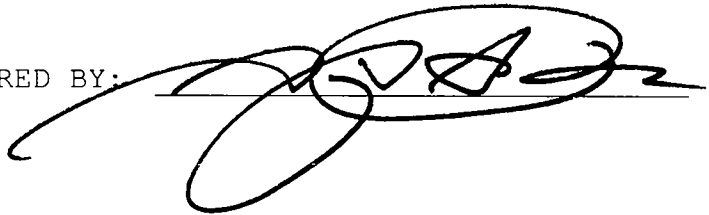
# S.C.R. NO. 88

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group  
2 shall serve without compensation; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
5 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
6 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
7 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
8 of 2024; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
12 Services; Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience;  
13 Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;  
14 Chairperson of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force; Executive  
15 Director of Effective Planning and Innovative Communication,  
16 Inc., operating as EPIC 'Ohana; Chief Executive Officer of Hale  
17 Kipa, Inc.; Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools; and  
18 President and Chief Executive Officer of Lili'uokalani Trust.  
19  
20  
21

OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and difficult to decipher, but appears to be a name starting with 'J' and ending with 'n'.