

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**In Strong Support of
S.B. No. 894, SD2, HB1 – Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office is in **STRONGLY SUPPORT** of S.B. No. 894, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

The technical changes requested in SB894 will assist the OWR to build out its operations and create a sustainable foundation to effectively address the charge of Act 291. Extending the date of transfer to Department of Human Services to July 1, 2025, will provide needed time to solidify the mechanisms required to successfully build structure and address the additional opportunities to collaborate and support working groups aligned with the OWR's charge.

Additionally, the request to formalize a relationship with the Act 209 Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and have it operate as an advisory committee will allow the Task Force's members and numerous community groups who have been regularly participating in the task force meetings to help inform the strategic direction of the OWR. As the director of the OWR, weaving the principles of trauma-informed care to guide all aspects of this office, including the involvement of community voice, creating opportunities to collaborate and provide transparency in the OWR from the inception, will be critical to its success.

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

Mahalo,

Tia L R Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor



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

April 4, 2023

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 894 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Conference Room 308

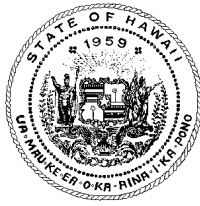
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

EOEL supports S.B. No. 894 S.D. 1 and defers to the Office of Wellness and Resiliency and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Supporting early mental health and development in the youngest years is critical to ensure a solid foundation of early childhood development and learning with lifelong benefits. As a member of the Trauma Informed Care Taskforce, EOEL supports efforts that would allow the Office of Wellness and Resiliency to effectuate its obligations and EOEL will continue to assist the office in integrating strategies that enhance the capacities of children and adults to further support efforts that collectively work towards lowering the burden of stress on families.

We look forward to continuing to work with other stakeholders and departments to continue strengthening the systems of support for our youngest keiki across the State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Acting Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 894, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.**

By

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and via Video Conference

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 894, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1, which proposes to transfer the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services on July 1, 2025, extend the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force dissolution date to June 30, 2025, establish the task force as an advocacy board to the OWR until its dissolution, and reconstitute the membership of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force into a permanent advocacy board to the OWR to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advocacy Board. PSD defers to the OWR and DHS on placement within the Executive Branch.

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 Hawai'i 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, PSD 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 894, SD 2, 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 894, SD 2, HD1.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0894, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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** Senate Bill No. 0894, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Transfer the Office of Wellness and Resilience from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Service;
- (2) Extend the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (Task Force) dissolution date to June 30, 2025; and
- (3) Reconstitute the membership of the Task Force into a permanent advocacy board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience, to be known as the Wellness and Resilience Advocacy Board.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0894, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

This bill would also take effect on July 1, 2112, for discussion purposes.

The experience of trauma has widespread impacts on the lives of our citizenry. This often leads to or exacerbates mental illness, 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 policymakers, health care providers, and government workers, the very services and systems designed to help people become healthy can be re-traumatizing. This bill seeks to improve the quality of outcomes for persons impacted by trauma by establishing the framework for a statewide trauma-informed and responsive practice. Accordingly, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

Committee: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m., April 5, 2023
Location: State Capitol
Re: SB894 SD2, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **support** of SB894 SD2, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

This bill transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services on 7/1/2025. It extends the trauma-informed care task force dissolution date to 6/30/2025 and establishes the task force as an advocacy board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience until its dissolution. It further reconstitutes the membership of the trauma-informed care task force into a permanent advocacy board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advocacy Board. This bill will be effective until 7/1/2112.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted many of our community members, especially low income families, children, and youth. We have experienced increased rates of incarceration among people with substance abuse disorders and mental illnesses, and addressing the care and treatment these individuals receive helps address the preventable occupation of Hawai'i's jails. Further, Hawai'i is home to a number of military families, and the effects of post traumatic stress disorder on members of these groups is well documented.

The ability to address trauma-informed care in a way that respects and honors cultural diversity is especially essential to our diverse population here in Hawai'i. The Office of Wellness and Resilience plays a critical role in promoting mental health and wellbeing, and it is essential that it is housed in a department that is dedicated to human services. By moving the office to the department of human services, we can ensure that mental health is given the attention it deserves as a critical component of overall health and wellbeing, and will result in greater educational, social, health, and life successes.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support SB894 SD2.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 5, 2023

Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

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

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB894 SD2 HD1, which transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services on 7/1/2025; extends the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force dissolution date to 6/30/2025 and establishes the Task Force as an advocacy board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience until its dissolution; reconstitutes the membership of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force into a permanent advocacy board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advocacy Board.

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.

We are very excited about the launch of the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR), and we thank the legislature for making this important office a reality last session. We believe the OWR will 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, the OWR will connect the dots between these place-based innovations, identify policy barriers and opportunities, and help braid funding streams.

The OWR will bring much-needed coherence and leadership to a critical cross-sector issue that impacts Hawaii at many levels: trauma. This is needed more 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.

We believe the technical changes made by SB894 SD2 HD1 will enable the office to operate effectively and sustainably for years to come. In order for Hawaii to be a true “trauma-informed state,” the OWR must have the clarity it needs to operate with local partners and carry out its important mission. This is true for any new office, which needs a transparent runway for delivering short and long term impact in order to justify its existence.

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



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair; and
members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Micah A. Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President

DATE: April 4, 2023

RE: Support for SB 894 SD 2, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
Hearing Wednesday, April 5, 2 pm

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports** Senate Bill 894 SD 2 (SB 894) relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR). The bill transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services on 7/1/2025; extends the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force dissolution date to 6/30/2025 and establishes the task force as an advisory board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience until its dissolution; and reconstitutes the membership of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force into a permanent advisory board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board.

Last year, HCF supported the creation of the OWR and is working with the office on various efforts within its scope. Beyond dealing with the symptoms and impacts of mental health issues for all ages, HCF believes that both the establishment of the OWR and its long-term stability, provided for by SB 894 SD 2, is key to addressing mental health issues at a systemic level for our State. Additionally, HCF supports SB 894 SD 2 as it relates to several efforts coordinated by HCF: First, the [Promising Minds Initiative](#) focused on mental health of keiki ages 0-5 and their families; and second, the broader [Health and Wellness sector of the CHANGE Framework](#) which recognizes the need for preventative mental health and widespread uptake of trauma-informed approaches.

Please advance SB 894 SD 2.



**Parents And
Children Together**

**BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST**

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 894 SD2 HD 1

TO: Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, & Members,
House Committee on Finance
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
DATE: April 5, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports SB 894 SD2 HD1 Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience, which transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Services, extends the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force dissolution date, and establishes the task force as an advisory/advocacy board to the OWR.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our 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 building programs.

Trauma-informed, evidence-based practice is core to our service delivery and reflected in our organizational values. We support the Office of Wellness and Resilience's commitment to incorporate cultural approaches to improving the way our systems respond to issues such as homelessness, behavioral health crises and family violence. Ensuring that the OWR has an administrative home and that the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force can continue its work is important to achieving the goals of this first-in-the nation state-level OWR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Date: April 5, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Lauren Nahme

VP of Strategy & Transformation

RE: **SB894, SD2, HD1 - Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalua Yamashita, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Kitagawa, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike, aloha kākou!

Kamehameha Schools **SUPPORTS** SB894, SD2, HD1, which transfers the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) to the Department of Human Services (DHS), extends the Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Task Force dissolution date to 6/30/2025, establishes the task force as an advisory board to OWR until its dissolution, and, upon its dissolution, reconstitutes the membership of the TIC Task Force into a permanent advocacy board to OWR to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advocacy Board.

Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui – When the child is nurtured, the people thrive. Kamehameha Schools believes that when we 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 are prudent and sensible solutions, along with other recommendations of the Task Force, to support the development of all vulnerable youth, resulting in greater educational, social, health, and overall life success.

We further believe that making OWR permanent under DHS and reconstituting the TIC Task Force as a permanent advocacy board to OWR is critical to successfully implement the recommendations of the TIC Task Force over the long-term, including Native Hawaiian culture-based solutions, to ensure our keiki are given the best chance of moving from trauma to resilience with the urgency they deserve. 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.

SB-894-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:30:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Tochiki	EPIC `Ohana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support SB894 SD2 HD1. Thank you



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Yamashita, Chair
Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: SB894 SD2 HD1, relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
2:00 p.m., Apr. 5, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 894 SD2 HD1, relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.**

It has been inspiring to see how the will of the legislature to create a trauma-informed task force has burgeoned into an Office of Wellness and Resilience. The work of the task force has provided an important foundation from which the office can make a difference across state departments and into our communities.

We support this bill to clarify administrative attachment as well as set the vision for the future of the office and what will be the Wellness and Resiliency Advisory Board. We support a governance structure where the office can get important advice and counsel from a representative advisory group. The representative task force thus far has ensured that individuals, families and communities that are often marginalized—intentionally or by circumstance—are included in their discussions. We welcome their continued support of the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify. **Please support SB894 SD2 HD1.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

SB-894-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 2:17:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

SB-894-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:43:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill, and am hopeful that the current administration will endeavor to deepen and broaden the work of the current office until it transitions to the Department of Human Services.

There is an urgent need for more state and local data regarding the impacts of social determinants of health to help better inform departmental policies and prospective statutory changes. Data can also further advance trauma-informed and resilience-related policies in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nikos Leverenz

Aliamanu

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair Lisa Kitagawa, & Members
House Committee on Finance

SB 894, SD 2, HD 1

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308
State Capitol, Via Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 894 SD2 HD1 RELATED TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS
AND RESILIENCE**

I am in support of SB 894 SD2 HD1, which transfers the Office of Wellness and Resiliency from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services on 7/1/2025; extends the Trauma-Informed Task Force dissolution date to 6/30/2025 and establishes the task force as an advisory board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience until its dissolution; and reconstitutes the membership of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force into a permanent advisory board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board.

As a member of this community and as someone who is pursuing a career in social work, I understand the importance of trauma informed care and strongly advocate for the passage of this measure. Trauma is something that deeply and adversely affects individuals, families, and communities. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has recently exacerbated existing stressors among members of the community.

Becoming a trauma informed state is essential in keeping our community and families safe and healthy. This work is desperately needed and the people of Hawaii are struggling. By supporting this measure, we can strengthen struggling families and build a thriving community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Dylan Chung