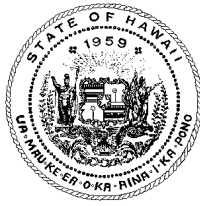


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Acting Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

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

No. _____

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

By

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair,
Representative Gilbert Terez Amato, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair,
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and via Video Conference

Chair Mizuno, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Amato, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 894, Senate Draft (SD) 2, 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 advisory board to the OWR until its dissolution, and reconstitute the membership of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force into a permanent advisory board to the OWR to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board. PSD defers to the OWR 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

Testimony on SB 894, SD2
House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
March 21, 2023
Page 2

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, 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.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY

By Lauren Nahme

VP of Strategy & Transformation

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

E nā Luna Ho‘omalua Mizuno a me Belatti, nā Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Amato a me Takenouchi, a me nā Lālā o kēia mau Kōmike, aloha kākou!

Kamehameha Schools **SUPPORTS** SB894, SD2, 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 advisory board to OWR to be called the Wellness and Resilience Advisory 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 advisory 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 Committees 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.



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

March 19, 2023

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 894 S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS
AND RESILIENCE
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Conference Room 329

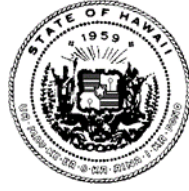
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

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



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 19, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SB 894 SD2](#) - RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

Hearing: March 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the measure, provides comments, and defers to the Office of Wellness and Resilience and the Department of Health.

PURPOSE: 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. 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. 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. Effective 7/1/2112. (SD2)

The SD1 amendment defected the effective date. The SD2 further amended the measure by:

- (1) Replacing certain references to an interagency task force with references to the trauma-informed care task force or the wellness and resiliency advisory board;
- (2) Inserting language to facilitate the transfer of certain powers and duties from the Department of Human Services to the Office of Wellness and Resilience; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's efforts to transform the government to become trauma-informed. The shift to become a Trauma-Informed State is necessary. International, national, and local reports describe the continuing and disproportionate health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation 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.

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. Negative and traumatizing experiences trying to access government services lead to losing faith in the government and less citizen engagement.

The government workforce has also been reduced as public workers find higher-paying and less stressful employment in the private sector. As a result, DHS emphasizes the need to include employee mental health as part of trauma-informed strategies.

DHS will work with the Governor's Office and the Office of Wellness & Resiliency to facilitate the transfer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

¹ See, Andrade C, Gillen M, Molina JA, Wilmarth MJ. [The Social and Economic Impact of Covid-19 on Family Functioning and Well-Being: Where do we go from here?](#), J Fam Econ Issues. 2022;43(2):205-212. doi: 10.1007/s10834-022-09848-x. Epub 2022 May 27. PMID: 35669394; PMCID: PMC9136200; Drake P, Williams E, [A Look at the Economic Effects of the Pandemic for Children](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, August 5, 2022, and UHERO Public Health Report, [Vaccination Booster Uptake Lags as COVID Impact Reach Widens](#), January 5, 2023.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



RICHARD RIES, Psy.D., M.Ed.
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY**

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the
House Committee on Human Services
and House Committee on Health and Homelessness
in SUPPORT of S.B. 894 S.D. 2
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

Richard I. Ries PsyD, MEd

1st VICE CHAIRPERSON

Katherine Aumer, PhD

2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON

Kathleen Merriam, LCSW CSAC

SECRETARY

Eileen Lau-James, DVM

MEMBERS:

Antonino Beninato

John Betlach

Naomi Crozier, CPS

Jon Fujii, MBA

Heidi Ilyavi

Jackie Jackson, CFPS

Chris Knightsbridge, MAIR, MACL

Kau'i Seguancia

Lea Dias, MEd

Jean Okudara, CSAC

Ray Rice, MEd

Mary Pat Waterhouse

Kristin Will, MACL, CSAC

EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

WEBSITE:

scmh.hawaii.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS:

doh.scmhchairperson@
doh.hawaii.gov

Chairs Mizuno and Belatti, Vice-Chairs Amato and Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

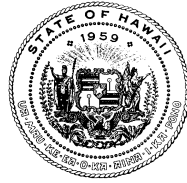
Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, establishes the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The SCMH supports the intent of this bill and requests that mental health, and more broadly behavioral health, be represented clearly in the reconstitution of the trauma-informed care task force into an advisory board.

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

VISION : A Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice.

MISSION: To advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB894 SD2
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESLIENCE.**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: March 21, 2023

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the Trauma Informed Care
3 Taskforce (TIC-TF) and the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR). DOH provides some
4 comments for consideration, but defers to the OWR.

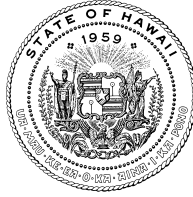
5 We suggest:

6 (1) Changing “advisory board” to “advocacy board” to advocate for wellness and resilience
7 through trauma informed care;

8 (2) Considering a transition of the TIC-TF to an advocacy group for OWR sooner than June
9 30, 2024. A sooner transition could help with the establishment of the OWR and
10 potentially provide assistance during OWR’s initial formative years.

11 We also recommend that the chair of the proposed advocacy group be other than a State
12 employee. With the plan for the OWR to be an attached office rather than part of a department,
13 there seems to be intent for it to have independence. Having a State employee as the chair may
14 conflict with the intended independence of another State entity. We propose that the members of
15 the proposed advocacy board select a non-State employee chair.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

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

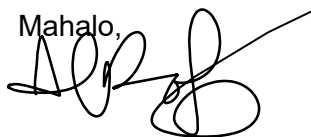
Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee:

The Office of the Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. No. 894, SD2, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

The technical changes requested in SB894, SD2 will assist the OWR to build 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 members and numerous community groups who have been regularly participating in the task force meetings, to help inform the direction to the OWR. As the Executive 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
Executive Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Jefferson Gourley, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

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 `Ohana, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice

Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale `Opio Kaua'i, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action

Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho`ola Na Pua

Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua'i

Ka Hale Pomaika'i

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kaua'i Planning and Action

Alliance

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

PHOCUSED

PFLAG—Kona, Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest, Hawaii

Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

March 17, 2023

To: Representative John Mizuno Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 894 SD 2 RELATED TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND
RESILIENCE

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 894 SD 2 Related to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

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.

Moving the Office of Wellness and Resilience under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services and positioning the Hawaii Trauma-Informed Care Task Force as an ongoing advisory group is appropriate and needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 894 SD2

TO: Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Amato & Members – House Committee on Human Services
Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi & Members – House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO

DATE: March 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports SB 894 SD2 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 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.



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Human Services and
Health and Homelessness
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Mizuno, Chair Belatti, 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, 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 advisory board to the Office of Wellness and Resilience, to be known as the Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0894, Senate Draft 2
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 9:00 a.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.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

March 21, 2023

Committee on Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Committee on Health & Homelessness

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Aloha Chairs Mizuno and Belatti, Vice Chairs Amato and Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB894 SD2, 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 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.

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 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



1130 N. NIMITZ HWY, SUITE C-210, HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: (808) 838-7752 TOLL FREE: (866) 636-1644 FAX: (808) 838-1653

March 18, 2023

Re: SB894 Office of Wellness and Resilience

EPIC 'Ohana supports the extension of the work of the Task Force. The vision of a trauma informed state that supports the wellness and resilience of our people gives us hope. The task force has started to develop a framework and support a strategic plan. Reconstituting the task force into an advisory board for the Office of Wellness and Resilience will enable the office to build and sustain its important work.

The vision of becoming a "trauma informed state" is bold. It is also desperately needed. EPIC 'Ohana works with families and children in the child welfare system, and we are keenly aware that the safety network for our families needs strengthening.

We look forward to collaborating with the Task Force and the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Arial Tochiki".

Laurie Arial Tochiki, JD, Ph.D
Executive Director





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 Mizuno, Chair
Representative Amaato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Representative Belatti, Chair
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: SB894 SD1, relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
9:00 a.m., Mar. 21, 2023

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the committees:

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, 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.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Terez Amato, Vice Chair; and
members of the House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair;
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and
members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

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

DATE: March 20, 2023

RE: Support for SB 894 SD 2, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
Hearing Tuesday, March 21, 9 am

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.



To: Committee on Human Services and Committee on Health & Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday March 21, 2023

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 894 SD2

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Mizuno, Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) supports SB 894 which transfer the Office of Wellness and Resilience to DHS and extends the Trauma-informed Care Task Force to be an advisory board of the Office.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC strives to be a trauma-informed agency and applauds the efforts of the Trauma Informed Care Task Force and the new Office of Wellness and Resilience and feel that SB 894 SD2 will enable to the office to work more effectively and to help Hawaii become a model for the rest of the country as we become a "trauma-informed state".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

SB-894-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 5:56:17 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doora Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this measure.

Mahalo,
Doora

SB-894-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 8:35:23 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an actively voting resident of Hawai'i and a member of the Salt Lake community, I support [SB894 SD2](#).

SB-894-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 6:02:30 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Resilience is not innate but can be learned and strengthened. To strengthen resilience, one must embrace optimism, learn to forgive, accept, take responsibility, focus on solving problems, and learn to not react defensively. The person who is resilient has good social skills and has emotional awareness. When people are resilient, they can recover from traumatic experiences by adapting successfully even if they remain unhappy (Babic, et al., (2020). There is a disproportionate amount of trauma for those living in poverty, those who have witnessed or experiences violence, and those exposed to the criminal justice system. Trauma informed care allows primary care providers to increase care quality and the experience of the patient and helping to keep patients engaged over time with care providers. This is done by incorporating safety, collaboration, trust, peer support and culture into care delivery allowing for improved growth and development of patients and healing from traumatic events. Adapting health and human services in the community for people exposed to trauma can improve engagement in healthy behaviors, increases patient-centered care while addressing health and social needs (Chadhri, et al., 2019). I am hopeful that the wide involvement of community stakeholders in the task force, this program will improve the health and well-being of those exposed to trauma throughout the state of Hawaii.

References

Babić, R., Babić, M., Rastović, P., Ćurlin, M., Šimić, J., Mandić, K., & Pavlović, K. (2020). Resilience in health and illness. *Psychiatria Danubina*, 32(Suppl 2), 226–232.

Chaudhri, S., Zweig, K. C., Hebbar, P., Angell, S., & Vasan, A. (2019). Trauma-Informed care: A strategy to improve primary healthcare engagement for persons with criminal justice system involvement. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 34(6), 1048–1052.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-018-4783-1>

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Senate Bill 894, Senate Draft 2 - RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 9:00am
House Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT of S.B. No. 894, S.D. 2

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Amato, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

I am Rayen Rooney, a Master of Social Work student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The views expressed in this testimony are my own personal thoughts and do not express the views and opinions of the University I attend. I am testifying in support of S.B. No. 894, S.D. 2, Relating to The Office of Wellness and Resilience.

This legislation will be able to support the people in Hawai'i by extending the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and having the Office of Wellness and Resilience operate under the Department of Human Services. Establishing trauma-informed and responsive practice frameworks for the State will bolster up systems to address the various needs of people.

Through my practicum experience I worked with kūpuna, individuals who are houseless, and individuals with mental health diagnoses to which I see the value of having a trauma-informed practice. Trauma is experienced and lived differently for each person, which is why it is important for the task force to develop a framework that may address the needs of our diverse communities. In addition, it is important to have various entities and organizations be involved in the process to address the complex and multi-faceted systems in the State of Hawai'i.

From my scope of practice and education thus far, I am in support of S.B. No. 894, S.D. 2, because of the important role trauma-informed care has on a person.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify and I greatly appreciate your folks' consideration in **support of S.B. No. 894, S.D. 2**, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Rayen Rooney

SB-894-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:19:59 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB894 SD2. The work that this bill provides for 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. Please support SB894 SD2 so that our families and communities can receive needed assistance.

SB-894-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:08:09 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Mikuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to ask for your support of SB894 SD2. The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) must be continued since it is designed to do important work to make Hawai'i a "trauma-informed state." This work is needed more than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has been directly or indirectly devastating to many of our community members. Hawai'i residents of all ages have lost relatives and friends, have faced stressors at home due to financial hardship and employment demands, and have become deeply disengaged from their employers, schools, peers, and teachers. It performs a vital service to identify where in the public and private sectors this is being done well and areas for improvement. The technical changes included in this legislation are necessary to enable the office to operate sustainably and effectively. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Allison Mikuni, Palolo Resident