

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and Government Operations

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

3:50 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

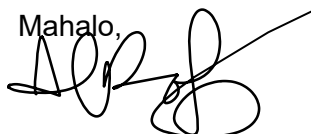
Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Aquino and Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

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

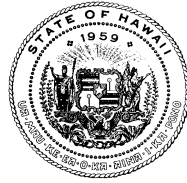
The technical changes requested in SB894 will assist the OWR to build its operations and create a sustainable foundation to effectively address the charge of Act 291. Extending the date of transfer to Department of Human Services to July 1, 2025, will provide needed time to solidify the mechanisms required 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



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
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESLIENCE.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Hearing Date: February 7, 2023

Room Number: 225

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

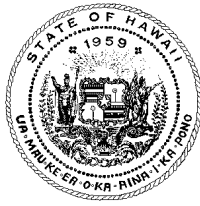
2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the Trauma Informed Care
3 Taskforce (TIC-TF) and the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR). DOH provides some
4 comments for consideration, but defers to the OWR.

5 We suggest considering a conversion of the TIC-TF to the Wellness and Resiliency Advisory
6 Board (WRAB) sooner than the proposed date of July 1, 2025. The proposed scopes for the TIC-
7 TF and the (WRAB) are identical except for the TIC-TF to serve as an advisory board to the
8 OWR, and it appears that the legislative intent has been determined to attach the OWR to the
9 Department of Human Services. A sooner transition could help with the establishment the OWR
10 and potentially provide additional guidance during the OWR's initial formative years.

11 We also recommend that the chair of the WRAB be other than a State employee. With the plan
12 for the OWR to be an attached office rather than part of a department, there seems to be intent
13 for it to have independence. Having a State employee as the WRAB chair could seem in conflict
14 with the intended independence of another State entity. We propose that either all WRAB
15 members or only non-State employee members select a chair from among the non-State
16 employee members.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 894
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 07, 2023; 3:50 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Aquino, and
Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill (SB) 894, which seeks 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 framework for trauma-informed and responsive practices, identifying best practices, and identifying cultural practices to help build wellness and resilience.

Testimony on SB 894
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
February 7, 2023
Page 2

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 894 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 on SB 894.



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: Senator McKelvey, Chair
Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: SB894, relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
3:50 p.m., Feb. 7, 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 SUPPORT of Senate Bill 894, 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.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 7, 2023

Committee On Government Operations
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Committee On Health And Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports SB894, 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 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 YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai`i 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 Hawai`i

*Big Island Substance Abuse
Council*

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Family Programs Hawai`i

Family Support Hawai`i

Friends of the Children's Justice

Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai`i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.

Hawai`i Children's Action

Network

Hawai`i 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

February 4, 2023

To: Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Government Operations

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

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

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 894 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 to the Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations and Health and
Human Services
Tuesday, February 7, 2023; 3:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair McKelvey, Chair San Buenaventura, 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, 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
Tuesday, February 7, 2023; 3:50 p.m.
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The experience of trauma has widespread impacts on the lives of our citizenry. This often leads to or exacerbates mental 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.



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TO: Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

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

DATE: February 6, 2023

RE: Support for SB 894, Relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience
Hearing Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 3:50 pm

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports** Senate Bill 894 (SB 894) relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR).

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 SB894, is key to addressing mental health issues at a systemic level for our State. Additionally, HCF supports SB894 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.

SB-894

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 3:22:19 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/7/2023 3:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

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.

SB-894

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:29:54 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/7/2023 3:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE include a representative from the Domestic Violence community on this Trauma-Informed Care Task Force!!!

I can assure you that domestic violence and its after-effects (to include post-separation abuse) significantly affect children, youth and families in an exceedingly traumatic way. The primary problem I consistently face in the work that I do is that *domestic violence is overlooked, not recognized, mariginalized for some other presenting problem or flat out ignored* because it's too complicated, not an easy fix and often too traumatizing for even the professionals to deal with.

Please do all of us a favor and include a representative from the Domestic Violence community in all efforts such as these.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments to and in support of SB894.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.

Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate



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

February 7, 2023

LATE

TO: Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 894 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Time: 3:50 pm

Location: Conference Room 225

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Supports the Intent

EOEL supports the intent of S.B. No. 894 and defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Health (DOH).

EOEL works with stakeholders to establish a system that ensures a solid foundation of early childhood development and learning for Hawaii's children from prenatal to age five. Supporting early mental health and development in the youngest years is critical. EOEL supports efforts that would support the Office of Wellness and Resiliency to effectuate its obligations and EOEL will continue to assist 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.