
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to:
- 2 (1) Establish the Malama Ohana working group to seek,
- 3 design, and recommend transformative changes to the
- 4 State's existing child welfare system;
- 5 (2) Appropriate funds to the department of human services
- 6 to increase the procurement of contracted services to
- 7 provide additional support and resources to families
- 8 receiving benefits from the State's adoption
- 9 assistance and permanency assistance programs; and
- 10 (3) Appropriate funds to the office of wellness and
- 11 resilience for the working group.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of

13 wellness and resilience for administrative purposes a Malama

14 Ohana working group to seek, design, and recommend

15 transformative changes to the State's existing child welfare

16 system.



1 (b) The Malama Ohana working group shall consist of the
2 following:

3 (1) The executive director of the office of wellness and
4 resilience, or the director's designee;

5 (2) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
6 affairs, or the chief executive officer's designee;

7 (3) Two investigators, case managers, or their assistants,
8 from the department of human services' child welfare
9 services branch, as designated by the branch
10 administrator; and

11 (4) The chairperson of the trauma-informed care task force
12 established within the department of health for
13 administrative purposes pursuant to Act 209, Session
14 Laws of Hawaii 2021, or the chairperson's designee;

15 (c) The Malama Ohana working group shall invite the
16 following representatives to join the working group:

17 (1) The executive director of Effective Planning and
18 Innovative Communication, Inc., doing business as EPIC
19 'Ohana, or the executive director's designee, who shall
20 be requested to serve as co-chair of the working
21 group;



- 1 (2) The chief executive officer of Hale Kipa, Inc., or the
2 chief executive's designee, who shall be requested to
3 serve as co-chair of the working group;
- 4 (3) Four members of Nā Kama a Hāloa;
- 5 (4) Two members from each of the following constituencies,
6 as identified by Nā Kama a Hāloa:
- 7 (A) Former foster youth;
- 8 (B) Birth parents who were involved in the child
9 welfare system, specifically with the department
10 of human services' child welfare services branch;
- 11 (C) Licensed resource caregivers; and
- 12 (D) Kinship resource caregivers;
- 13 (5) The chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools, or
14 the chief executive officer's designee; and
- 15 (6) The chief executive officer of Lili'uokalani Trust, or
16 the chief executive officer's designee.
- 17 (d) The Malama Ohana working group shall develop
18 recommendations to establish a child welfare system that is
19 trauma-informed, sustains a community-based partnership, and
20 responsive to the needs of children and families in the child



1 welfare system and among the larger community. In carrying out
2 its purpose, the working group shall:

- 3 (1) Conduct listening sessions throughout the State and
4 with affected constituencies;
- 5 (2) Conduct meetings to brainstorm and develop concepts
6 for recommendations;
- 7 (3) Develop recommendations on ways to better coordinate
8 and improve the protection and well-being of children
9 and families in the child welfare system;
- 10 (4) Identify training and best practices, assessment
11 criteria, and ways to sustain an effective workforce
12 within the department of human services' child welfare
13 services branch;
- 14 (5) Identify training and best practices, assessment
15 criteria, and ways to sustain an effective workforce
16 within the larger circle of community agencies serving
17 the child welfare system;
- 18 (6) Identify best practices, including Native Hawaiian
19 cultural practices, for providing assistance to
20 children and youth who were involved in the child
21 welfare system and their families;



1 (7) Identify other cultural practices that build wellness
2 and resilience in communities and improve
3 collaboration between communities and the child
4 welfare services branch; and

5 (8) Collaborate with the trauma-informed care task force,
6 and where appropriate, conduct joint listening
7 sessions or design sessions for the purpose of
8 reforming the child welfare system.

9 (e) Members of the Malama Ohana working group shall serve
10 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable
11 expenses necessary for the performance of their duties,
12 including travel expenses. No member of the working group shall
13 be subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely
14 because of the member's participation in the working group.

15 (f) The office of wellness and resilience may contract
16 with an administrative facilitator to provide necessary support
17 for the Malama Ohana working group in carrying out its
18 activities, including preparation of the report required
19 pursuant to subsection (g), without regard to chapter 103D,
20 Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 (g) The Malama Ohana working group shall submit a report
2 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
4 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

5 (h) The Malama Ohana working group shall cease to exist on
6 July 1, 2025.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2024-2025 for the procurement of contracted services to
12 provide additional support and resources to families receiving
13 benefits from the State's adoption assistance program and
14 permanency assistance program, for the purposes of assisting
15 with family strengthening and the maintenance of a safe home
16 environment for adopted children; provided that:

17 (1) \$ shall be expended for the development and
18 maintenance of necessary information technology
19 systems, including the establishment of two full time
20 equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions;



- 1 (2) \$ shall be expended to increase compensation
2 to fill vacancies and retain employees in existing
3 child welfare services branch investigator, case
4 manager, and social worker positions; provided that
5 any increase in compensation shall be subject to
6 collective bargaining with the objective of
7 expeditiously filling all vacancies;
- 8 (3) \$ shall be expended for the department of
9 human services to contract with a third party for
10 enhanced permanency support services, including
11 additional training for resource caregivers, wellness
12 visits within a year of adoption or guardianship of
13 children formerly in foster care, respite care, and
14 enhanced supportive services to assist with family
15 strengthening and maintenance of a safe home
16 environment for adopted children; and
- 17 (4) \$ shall be expended for the establishment of
18 one full time equivalent (1.0 FTE) planner or project
19 specialist position to administer and monitor
20 additional service contracts and assist with
21 additional service coordination.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 for the Malama Ohana working group established
8 pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including for the office of
9 wellness and resilience to contract with an administrative
10 facilitator to provide necessary support for the working group
11 in carrying out its activities.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
13 the governor for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 30, 3000;
15 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
16 2023.

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H.B. NO. 1365
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Working Group; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Child Welfare System; Adoption Assistance; Legal Guardianship Permanency Assistance; Support and Resources; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Malama Ohana working group within the office of wellness and resilience to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes to the State's child welfare system. Requires a report to the legislature. Appropriates funds to the department of human services for various support and resources for the child welfare services branch and the families they serve. Appropriates funds to the office of wellness and resilience for the working group. Effective 7/30/3000. (HD1)

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