
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more programs and
2 services must be established to address the unmet needs of
3 children and families at risk of child welfare system
4 involvement.

5 The malama ohana working group was established by Act 86,
6 Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, within the office of wellness and
7 resilience to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes
8 to the State's existing child welfare system. In its report
9 submitted to the legislature, the malama ohana working group
10 stated that there is a shortage of resources in Hawaii dedicated
11 to preventing the need for children's and families' involvement
12 with child welfare services, especially primary prevention and
13 universal support. Many families at high risk of entering the
14 child welfare system are unaware of available services or how to
15 access them. The malama ohana working group recommended that
16 the establishment of programs, such as universal family
17 supports, that allow families to thrive are prioritized above



1 all other commitments in an effort to divert children and
2 families away from involvement with the child welfare system.
3 The malama ohana working group specifically provided suggestions
4 for family support, such as creating accessible pathways to
5 concrete supports like food and shelter, establishing community-
6 based resource centers staffed by individuals with lived
7 experience, and meeting families' basic needs for housing, child
8 care, and physical and mental health care.

9 The legislature further finds that examples of child
10 welfare diversion programs exist in other states and have been
11 successful in reducing the numbers of families involved with
12 child welfare. These diversion programs have been successful by
13 screening at-risk families and providing them with peer support
14 and system navigation, resource program supports and financial
15 assistance, and parenting and family-strengthening classes and
16 therapy.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and
18 appropriate funds for a five-year family resilience pilot
19 program within the office of wellness and resilience.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of
2 wellness and resilience a family resilience pilot program, in
3 which the office of wellness and resilience shall provide:

4 (1) Trauma-informed peer support navigators who have lived
5 experience going through the social service system to
6 assist families with enrollment in public or other
7 benefits, family strengthening, and cultural
8 programming;

9 (2) Financial assistance and resource supports to aid with
10 food, clothing, hygiene, housing, parenting, child
11 care, household, and transportation needs; and

12 (3) A trauma-informed, parenting intervention program that
13 improves caregiver-child relationships and parenting
14 skills through teaching and coaching on positive
15 communication, child behavior management strategies,
16 and calming and emotional regulation strategies for
17 both caregiver and child.

18 (b) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a
19 report of the effectiveness and participation in the pilot
20 program, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature



1 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
2 session of 2031.

3 (c) The family resilience pilot program shall cease on
4 June 30, 2030.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,468,500 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2026-2027 for the office of wellness and resilience to establish
10 a family resilience pilot program pursuant to this Act,
11 including the contracting of services to implement the pilot
12 program.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
14 wellness and resilience for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

16

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2025



H.B. NO. 1383

Report Title:

Family Resilience Pilot Program; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for a five-year family resilience pilot program within the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

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