
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Section 27-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

4 "(a) There is established within the office of the
5 governor, on a temporary basis and for special purposes, the
6 office of wellness and resilience. Effective July 1, 2025, the
7 office of wellness and resilience is placed within the
8 department of human services for administrative purposes only."

9 SECTION 2. Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, is
10 amended by amending section 2 to read as follows:

11 "SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the
12 department of health for administrative purposes a trauma-
13 informed care task force. The task force shall consist of the
14 following members:

15 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,
16 who shall serve as the chairperson of the task force;



- 1 (2) The director of human services, or the director's
2 designee;
- 3 (3) The superintendent of education, or the
4 superintendent's designee;
- 5 (4) The director of public safety, or the director's
6 designee;
- 7 (5) The director of the executive office on early
8 learning, or the director's designee;
- 9 (6) A member of the judiciary, to be appointed by the
10 chief justice of the supreme court;
- 11 (7) A faculty member from the university of Hawaii John A.
12 Burns school of medicine, to be appointed by the dean
13 of the university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of
14 medicine;
- 15 (8) The chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools, or
16 the chief executive officer's designee, who shall be
17 invited by the chairperson;
- 18 (9) A member of the law enforcement community, who shall
19 be invited by the chairperson;
- 20 (10) A member of the non-profit sector, who shall be
21 invited by the chairperson; and



1 (11) A community member or non-profit representative from
2 the Compact of Free Association islander community,
3 who shall be invited by the chairperson.

4 (b) The task force shall develop and make recommendations
5 for trauma-informed care in the State. Specifically, the task
6 force shall:

7 (1) Create, develop, and adopt a statewide framework for
8 trauma-informed and responsive practice. The
9 framework shall include:

10 (A) A clear definition of "trauma-informed and
11 responsive practice";

12 (B) Principles of trauma-informed and responsive care
13 that may apply to any school, health care
14 provider, law enforcement agency, community
15 organization, state agency, or other entity that
16 has contact with children or youth;

17 (C) Clear examples of how individuals and
18 institutions may implement trauma-informed and
19 responsive practices across different domains,
20 including organizational leadership, workforce



- 1 development, policy and decision-making, and
- 2 evaluation;
- 3 (D) Strategies for preventing and addressing
- 4 secondary traumatic stress for all professionals
- 5 and providers working with children and youth and
- 6 their families who have experienced trauma;
- 7 (E) Recommendations to implement trauma-informed care
- 8 professional development and strategy
- 9 requirements in county and state contracts; and
- 10 (F) An implementation and sustainability plan,
- 11 consisting of an evaluation plan with suggested
- 12 metrics for assessing ongoing progress of the
- 13 framework;
- 14 (2) Identify best practices, including those from native
- 15 Hawaiian cultural practices, with respect to children
- 16 and youth who have experienced or are at risk of
- 17 experiencing trauma, and their families;
- 18 (3) Provide a trauma-informed care inventory and
- 19 assessment of public and private agencies and
- 20 departments;



- 1 (4) Identify various cultural practices that build
2 wellness and resilience in communities;
- 3 (5) Convene trauma-informed care practitioners so that
4 they may share research and strategies in helping
5 communities build wellness and resilience;
- 6 (6) Seek ways in which federal funding may be used to
7 better coordinate and improve the response to families
8 impacted by coronavirus disease 2019, substance use
9 disorders, domestic violence, poverty, and other forms
10 of trauma, including making recommendations for a
11 government position to interface with federal agencies
12 to seek and leverage federal funding with county and
13 state agencies and philanthropical organizations;
14 [and]
- 15 (7) Coordinate data collection and funding streams to
16 support the efforts of the interagency task force[-];
17 and
- 18 (8) Serve as an advisory board to the office of wellness
19 and resilience.
- 20 (c) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
21 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 each regular session, beginning with the regular session of
3 2024.

4 (d) The task force shall cease to exist on [~~July 1, 2024.~~]
5 June 30, 2025."

6 SECTION 3. The trauma-informed care task force established
7 pursuant to Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, shall serve as
8 an advisory board to the office of wellness and resilience until
9 its dissolution on June 30, 2025.

10 PART II

11 SECTION 4. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
13 to read as follows:

14 "PART . OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE

15 §346-A Definitions. As used in this part, unless the
16 context otherwise requires:

17 "Board" means the wellness and resilience advisory board.

18 "Office" means the office of wellness and resilience.

19 §346-B Office of wellness and resilience; established.

20 (a) There is established within the department for



1 administrative purposes only, the office of wellness and
2 resilience.

3 (b) The office shall be headed by an executive director,
4 who shall be appointed by the director without regard to chapter
5 76, and who shall serve at the pleasure of the director.

6 (c) The executive director may appoint additional staff
7 for the office. Staff appointed pursuant to this subsection
8 shall be exempt from chapters 76 and 89 but shall be members of
9 the state employees' retirement system and shall be eligible to
10 receive the benefits of any state employee benefit program
11 generally applicable to officers and employees of the State.

12 (d) Department directors may assign additional employees
13 from existing positions within their respective department to
14 the office; provided that the employees shall represent their
15 respective department's needs and shall have direct
16 communication with the respective department's leadership during
17 the course of their assignment with the office.

18 **§346-C Functions.** The office shall:

19 (1) Address issues identified and implement solutions
20 recommended by the board through a cross-



- 1 representation of state departments and the private
2 sector, including private donors;
- 3 (2) Identify common issues, unmet needs, and challenges
4 encountered by departments and work to solve those
5 issues through a cross-representation of state
6 departments and the private sector, including private
7 donors;
- 8 (3) Seek funding solutions using moneys that each
9 department has access to, including federal, state,
10 and private sources, and work with philanthropic
11 organizations and other entities from the private
12 sector to re-evaluate the State's funding priorities
13 and find funding solutions to implement
14 interdepartmental programming;
- 15 (4) Establish a procurement team that has cross-agency
16 representation to streamline existing department grant
17 and funding management and meet existing fiduciary
18 obligations and other state requirements;
- 19 (5) Interact with community agencies, organizations, and
20 other stakeholders to ensure the office is meeting the



1 needs and wellness requirements of communities
2 throughout the State; and
3 (6) Create a social determinants of health electronic
4 dashboard that identifies a baseline of needs and
5 concerns that impede high quality-of-life outcomes.

6 **§346-D Annual report.** Beginning on July 1, 2025, the
7 office shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
9 that contains a summary of its activities during the preceding
10 year, including:

- 11 (1) Actions taken to address issues, unmet needs, and
12 challenges relating to wellness and resilience;
- 13 (2) Funds received pursuant to the activities of the
14 office from federal, state, private, and philanthropic
15 sources;
- 16 (3) The office's engagement with community entities and
17 other stakeholders; and
- 18 (4) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
19 proposed legislation.

20 **§346-E Wellness and resilience advisory board;**
21 **establishment; members; roles.** (a) There is established within



1 the department for administrative purposes only, a wellness and
2 resilience advisory board to advise the office in implementing
3 this part. The board shall consist of the following members:

4 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,
5 who shall serve as the chairperson of the advisory
6 board;

7 (2) The director of human services, or the director's
8 designee;

9 (3) The superintendent of education, or the
10 superintendent's designee;

11 (4) The director of public safety, or the director's
12 designee;

13 (5) The director of the executive office on early
14 learning, or the director's designee;

15 (6) A member of the judiciary, to be appointed by the
16 chief justice of the supreme court;

17 (7) A faculty member from the University of Hawaii John A.
18 Burns school of medicine, to be appointed by the dean
19 of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of
20 medicine;



- 1 (8) The chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools, or
2 the chief executive officer's designee, who shall be
3 invited by the chairperson;
- 4 (9) A member of the law enforcement community, who shall
5 be invited by the chairperson;
- 6 (10) A member of the non-profit sector, who shall be
7 invited by the chairperson; and
- 8 (11) A community member or non-profit representative from
9 the Compact of Free Association islander community,
10 who shall be invited by the chairperson.
- 11 (b) The wellness and resiliency advisory board shall
12 develop and make recommendations for trauma-informed care in the
13 State. Specifically, the advisory board shall:
- 14 (1) Create, develop, and adopt a statewide framework for
15 trauma-informed and responsive practice. The
16 framework shall include:
- 17 (A) A clear definition of "trauma-informed and
18 responsive practice";
- 19 (B) Principles of trauma-informed and responsive care
20 that may apply to any school, health care
21 provider, law enforcement agency, community



- 1 organization, state agency, or other entity that
2 has contact with children or youth;
- 3 (C) Clear examples of how individuals and
4 institutions may implement trauma-informed and
5 responsive practices across different domains,
6 including organizational leadership, workforce
7 development, policy and decision-making, and
8 evaluation;
- 9 (D) Strategies for preventing and addressing
10 secondary traumatic stress for all professionals
11 and providers working with children and youth and
12 their families who have experienced trauma;
- 13 (E) Recommendations to implement trauma-informed care
14 professional development and strategy
15 requirements in county and state contracts; and
- 16 (F) An implementation and sustainability plan,
17 consisting of an evaluation plan with suggested
18 metrics for assessing ongoing progress of the
19 framework;
- 20 (2) Identify best practices, including those from Native
21 Hawaiian cultural practices, with respect to children



- 1 and youth who have experienced or are at risk of
2 experiencing trauma, and their families;
- 3 (3) Provide a trauma-informed care inventory and
4 assessment of public and private agencies and
5 departments;
- 6 (4) Identify various cultural practices that build
7 wellness and resilience in communities;
- 8 (5) Convene trauma-informed care practitioners so that
9 they may share research and strategies in helping
10 communities build wellness and resilience;
- 11 (6) Seek ways in which federal funding may be used to
12 better coordinate and improve the response to families
13 impacted by coronavirus disease 2019, substance use
14 disorders, domestic violence, poverty, and other forms
15 of trauma, including making recommendations for a
16 government position to interface with federal agencies
17 to seek and leverage federal funding with county and
18 state agencies and philanthropical organizations; and
- 19 (7) Coordinate data collection and funding streams to
20 support the efforts of the interagency task force.



1 (c) The nongovernmental members of the wellness and
2 resiliency advisory board shall serve without compensation but
3 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,
4 necessary for the performance of their duties."

5 SECTION 5. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of
6 the office of the governor relating to the office of wellness
7 and resilience are transferred to the department of human
8 services.

9 All employees who occupy civil service positions and whose
10 functions are transferred to the department of human services by
11 this Act shall retain their civil service status, whether
12 permanent or temporary. Employees shall be transferred without
13 loss of salary, seniority (except as prescribed by applicable
14 collective bargaining agreements), retention points, prior
15 service credit, any vacation and sick leave credits previously
16 earned, and other rights, benefits, and privileges, in
17 accordance with state personnel laws and this Act; provided that
18 the employees possess the minimum qualifications and public
19 employment requirements for the class or position to which
20 transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided further that



1 subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to applicable
2 civil service and compensation laws.

3 Any employee who, prior to this Act, is exempt from civil
4 service and is transferred as a consequence of this Act may
5 retain the employee's exempt status, but shall not be appointed
6 to a civil service position as a consequence of this Act. An
7 exempt employee who is transferred by this Act shall not suffer
8 any loss of prior service credit, vacation or sick leave credits
9 previously earned, or other employee benefits or privileges as a
10 consequence of this Act; provided that the employees possess
11 legal and public employment requirements for the position to
12 which transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided further
13 that subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to
14 applicable employment and compensation laws. The executive
15 director of the office of wellness and resilience may prescribe
16 the duties and qualifications of these employees and fix their
17 salaries without regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 SECTION 6. All appropriations, records, equipment,
19 machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents,
20 maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used,
21 acquired, or held by the office of the governor relating to the



1 functions of the office of wellness and resilience transferred
2 to the department of human services shall be transferred with
3 the functions to which they relate.

4 SECTION 7. Chapter 27, part IX, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
5 is repealed.

6 PART III

7 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112;
10 provided that:

11 (1) Sections 4 through 6 of this Act shall take effect on
12 July 1, 2025; and

13 (2) Section 7 of this Act shall take effect on June 30,
14 2025.



Report Title:

Office of Wellness and Resilience; Advisory Board; Trauma-Informed Care Task Force; Office of the Governor; Department of Human Services

Description:

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. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

