

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting Notice

DATE: Tuesday, October 27, 2026
TIME: 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
LOCATIONS: Multiple ways to join the meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98616281449>

Meeting ID: 986 1628 1449

Dial by your location

Find your local number: <https://hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/khTa6tc0B>

Physical Meeting Location:

415 S. Beretania St., Conference Room 415
Honolulu, HI 96813

Note: Meeting handouts are distributed via e-mail no later than three (3) business days prior to the day of the meeting. If you would like to receive meeting handouts, please contact the Office of Wellness and Resilience via email at gov.owr@hawaii.gov with your name and e-mail address.

Public testimony will be accepted on each agenda item prior to the discussion of that item. To ensure adequate time for the full agenda, testimony should address only the specific agenda item being considered (Pursuant to Section 92-3, Hawaii's Revised Statutes). Community members will have three (3) minutes per agenda item to speak, and may also submit written testimony. Community members are asked to raise their virtual hand when an agenda item is called if presenting testimony. Please e-mail testimony to gov.owr@hawaii.gov. Additionally, if you would like to submit written comments via mail carrier, please send to Office of Wellness and Resilience, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street, #415 Honolulu, HI 96813, Attn: Office of Wellness and Resilience.

Meeting notices are posted on the State Calendar and please reach out to gov.owr@hawaii.gov if you want to be placed on the Board's mailing list to receive meeting notifications.

The advisory board will attempt to address every agenda item, but no guarantee is intended. Priorities, such as requirements of Sunshine Law, may preclude addressing every or any agenda items. The advisory board reserves the right to adjust the agenda sequence (and any scheduled items if indicated) as necessary to efficiently conduct the meeting. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Office of Wellness and Resilience at gov.owr@hawaii.gov or (808) 586-0805 as soon as possible, preferably by Friday, October 23, 2026. Requests made as early as

possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

NOTE: All meetings will be recorded and posted here: <https://owr.hawaii.gov/wrab/>

NO.	TIME	ITEM	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
I.	9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Quorum Welcome & Opening Remarks 	Advisory Board Chairperson, and Advisory Board Facilitators
II.	9:10 – 9:15 a.m.	Review and motion to approve April 2026 Wellness and Resilience Advisory Board (WRAB) meeting minutes. Meeting minutes can be found at https://owr.hawaii.gov/wrab/	Advisory Board Facilitators
III.	9:15 – 9:20 a.m.	Today's Agenda & Goals Facilitators will go over the agenda and the expected outcome for today's meeting	Advisory Board Facilitators
IV.	9:20 – 9:25 a.m.	Public Comment Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Board's agenda at the next meeting.	Advisory Board Facilitators
V.	9:25 – 10:10 a.m.	Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) Updates and Discussion a. Learning and Leadership Collaborative The OWR Learning and Leadership Collaborative (Collaborative) is a network of certified state employees positioned across executive departments to put trauma-informed practice to work every day, in their day-to-day work with colleagues and the people of Hawai'i. Collaborative members carry trauma-informed, resilience-centered approaches into how agencies lead their teams and best serve the people of Hawai'i. They serve as ambassadors for trauma-informed practice within their departments, and connect across a peer network to share wins, challenges and solutions. As the Collaborative grows, OWR also plans to draw on members as future trainers statewide. The Collaborative is open to state employees who complete the Certification in Trauma-Informed Care (TIC Certification Training). The TIC Certification Training is an eight-module hybrid program. Coursework covers the science of trauma and resilience, the principles of trauma-informed care and their application in the	Representative from the Office of Wellness and Resilience

		<p>workplace. The TIC Certification is open to state employees. (Attachment 1)</p> <p>As of Oct. 1, 125 state employees have completed the TIC Certification Training.</p> <p>The OWR is hosting the first online wellness activity as part of the Collaborative on Oct.28, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., <i>Writing for Well-Being & Resilience Workshop</i>. The wellness activity is only open to Collaborative members. (Attachment 2)</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> OWR is seeking WRAB members' and the public's input on: (1) How to better engage state employees in the Collaborative, (2) Community based organizations to partner with for the Collaborative wellness activities, and (3) Educators or speakers that can guide collaborative participants on the subjects of wellness, resilience, worker well-being for wellness activities.</p> <p>b. 2026 Legislative Session Update Three bills were signed into law OWR was named in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 220 Establishing a medical debt acquisition and forgiveness program in OWR (Attachment 3) • Act 200 Mandates OWR to develop a comprehensive plan to establish Kakou Pilot Program (Attachment 4) • Act 201 Establishes a Family Resilience Pilot Program in OWR (Attachment 5) <p>c. Quality of Life Survey 2026 Completion The 2026 Hawai'i Quality of Life and Well-Being Survey collected insights from over 10,000 residents statewide. The survey covers critical topics such as neighborhood well-being, disaster preparedness, food security & housing, physical & mental health and workplace wellness. This project is a collaboration between the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Social Sciences (UH). UH analyzed the responses and has launched the new data Dashboard featuring results from the survey, which can be found at https://www.health-study.com</p> <p>d. Disaster Response Framework The OWR, in collaboration with community partners on Maui, as well as local, state and federal agencies developed the <i>Hawai'i Mental Health and Well-Being</i></p>	
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		<p><i>Framework for Disasters and Traumatic Events: A Trauma-Informed Approach (Framework)</i>. More information on the Framework can be found at https://owr.hawaii.gov/mental-health-and-well-being-framework-for-disasters-and-traumatic-events/</p> <p>The disaster framework provides guidance to support mental health and well-being across all phases of disaster—prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Framework offers practical tools and evidence-based approaches for a wide range of users such as first responders, helping professionals, organizational leaders, researchers, and community members in Hawai‘i and beyond.</p> <p>In alignment with the framework, the OWR had the privilege of partnering with the Department of Health and national experts Melissa Brymer and Courtney Grey from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network to deliver Psychological First Aid (PFA) trainings and train the trainer trainings. More information on PFA training can be found at https://learn.nctsn.org/enrol/index.php?id=596.</p> <p>A total of 386 attendees completed the training, including a Train the Trainer training course. Training sessions were held both online and in person, with in-person sessions on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, and Maui.</p>	
VI.	10:10 – 10:25 a.m.	Public Comment	Advisory Board Facilitators
VII.	10:25 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Upcoming Meeting Updates, Closing Remarks & Adjournment</p> <p>Moving forward, the WRAB will meet twice a year. The next meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2027 9:00am – 10:30 a.m. The meeting will be an in-person meeting. The meeting location will be announced a month before the meeting date.</p>	Advisory Board Chair. and Advisory Board Facilitators



OFFICE of Wellness & Resilience

Ke Ke'ena Kūpa'a Maui Ola
Our resilience is rooted in our wellness



Learning & Leadership Collaborative

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) Learning and Leadership Collaborative (L&LC) is a professional development program for state employees that increases workplace well-being and builds leadership capacity across departments. Participants may earn their Certifications in Trauma-Informed Care and Trauma-Informed Care Training.

Who is it for?

The program is open to most employees across all executive state departments committed to advancing trauma-informed care (TIC) and workplace well-being within their organizations.

Participants may pursue certification as a trauma-informed care professional and/or trauma-informed trainer.

- **Certification in Trauma-Informed Care**
- **Certification in Trauma-Informed Care Training (coming soon)**

Become Certified

Complete all eight modules within a 12-month period to become certified. Modules 1-4 are offered online via the Dept. of Human Resources' learning management system here.

The online training modules are available via the Department of Human Resources Development's (DHRD) training portal. Once logged in, search for "Certification in Trauma-Informed Care" to enroll.

In-Person Certification Completion Trainings

After completing Modules 1-4 online, participants select the session that fits their schedule, offered quarterly.

Remaining 2026 offerings:

- **October 22, 2026** - Wahiawā Value Added Product Development Center

How do I keep my certification active?

Attend at least two (2) hours of OWR-led continuing education annually:

- 1+ hour of wellness activities
- 1+ hour of TIC-related training and/or technical assistance



Share this within your department and encourage your team to join the Office of Wellness and Resilience Learning & Leadership Collaborative!

[Learn more at owr.hawaii.gov/lc/](https://owr.hawaii.gov/lc/)



OFFICE of
**Wellness
& Resilience**
Learning & Leadership
Collaborative

Writing for Well-Being & Resilience

with Aaron Kandell

Award-Winning Screenwriter & Journalist
from Honolulu, Hawai'i

Wednesday,

OCTOBER 28, 2026 | 11:30 AM—12:30 PM

ONLINE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM MEETINGS

Overview

- ▶ In this Writing for Well-Being & Resilience Workshop, Aaron brings his professional storytelling experience into a more personal space. The focus is not on becoming a professional writer or producing polished work, but on using writing as a tool for reflection, self-expression, curiosity, and connection. Participants will learn about the science for writing for well-being and are invited to explore their own stories through accessible writing exercises in a supportive, low-pressure environment.

Kuleana Learning & Leadership Collaborative (L&LC)

As part of your certification, you are asked to complete (1) training session and one (1) wellness activity, both hosted by the Office of Wellness and Resilience. This workshop fulfills your wellness activity. Our 2026 cohort have until Dec. 2027 to complete these requirements. After that, in 2028, you'll complete one of each every calendar year to maintain your certification.

**Register
today!**



SCAN HERE



▶ Meet Aaron Kandell

Aaron is an award-winning screenwriter and journalist from Honolulu. Along with his twin brother, Jordan, he has written for major studios including Disney Animation, Warner Bros., Paramount, 20th Century Fox, Legendary and Fox Animation. He and Jordan were screenwriters on Disney's *Moana* and co-writers of feature film *Adrift*, starring Shailene Woodley. Their screenplay *The Golden Record* was named to the prestigious 2013 Black List.

Aaron was born and raised on O'ahu, studied film and creative writing at the University of Southern California, and has spent his career exploring the power of storytelling. He has had the honor of speaking at or serving as a mentor for 'Ohina Labs, Hawai'i International Film Festival, Hisako Labs, and ICAN.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1322

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 9, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 9, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 3025, S.D. 2, H.D. 3,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO MEDICAL DEBT.
ACT 220

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 9 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 220
S.B. NO. 3025
S.D. 2
H.D. 3
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL DEBT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that medical debt has
2 become a widespread issue in the State. According to a 2022
3 report from the Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, more than
4 one in twenty adults in the State have outstanding medical debt
5 on their credit report. In states and cities that have acquired
6 and forgiven unpaid medical debt, most of the forgiven debt was
7 owed by those with health insurance, further suggesting that
8 despite many families in the State having health insurance
9 coverage, inability to pay medical debt is a serious problem.

10 The legislature further finds that medical debt is a social
11 determinant of health as patients with burdensome medical debt
12 often delay the care they need, may experience issues obtaining
13 employment and housing, have difficulty escaping poverty, and
14 experience increased mental stress.

15 The legislature also finds and declares that the
16 appropriation in this Act is in the public interest and for the
17 public health, safety, and general welfare of the State. Due to



1 a rising cost of living and a health care system built on a
2 for-profit model, many families are never able to repay medical
3 debt.

4 The legislature recognizes that due to the significant
5 amount of outstanding debt owed to hospitals and other health
6 care providers, a secondary market has emerged in which
7 commercial debt buyers purchase outstanding and dormant debt
8 owed to health care providers and take aggressive action to
9 collect from families who find themselves unable to pay, further
10 exacerbating the severity of the medical debt crisis.

11 However, the legislature further finds that twenty-seven
12 states and cities in the United States have partnered with a
13 nonprofit organization that has successfully purchased billions
14 of dollars in medical debt from health care providers and
15 collection agencies for about 0.01 per cent of the overall cost
16 and abolished the respective patients' debts altogether. Health
17 care providers whose debt is sold to third parties for
18 abolishment can equally benefit by receiving revenue for dormant
19 patient accounts, while mitigating the effects of social
20 determinants of health and enhancing community well-being.



1 The legislature finds that a medical debt consolidation and
2 cancellation non-profit organization has already acquired the
3 unpaid medical debt of 50,016 residents of the State, totaling
4 \$91,310,664. This includes 39,401 individuals on Oahu, 6,654
5 individuals on Hawaii island, 3,597 individuals on Maui,
6 Molokai, and Lanai, and three hundred sixteen individuals on
7 Kauai.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the
9 office of wellness and resilience to develop, implement, and
10 oversee the administration of a medical debt acquisition and
11 forgiveness program to acquire and forgive outstanding medical
12 debt for certain Hawaii residents, subject to the availability
13 of program funds.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to part XXI to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§346- Medical debt acquisition and forgiveness
18 program. (a) The office may develop, implement, and administer
19 a medical debt acquisition and forgiveness program to acquire
20 and forgive outstanding medical debt of residents of the State



1 that is identified as available for acquisition, subject to the
2 availability of program funds.

3 (b) The office may partner with other relevant state
4 agencies and programs to develop, implement, and administer the
5 program.

6 (c) The program shall:

7 (1) Acquire and forgive the medical debt of individuals
8 who are residents of the State:

9 (A) With a household income less than or equal to
10 four hundred per cent of the federal poverty
11 level for the State; and

12 (B) With an adjusted gross income of less than
13 \$100,000 who have a medical debt balance of not
14 less than five per cent of their household
15 income; and

16 (2) Ensure that any specific personally identifiable
17 information or protected health information is
18 collected in compliance with applicable federal and
19 state laws, regulations, and rules, and is used only
20 for the purposes of acquiring and satisfying or
21 discharging medical debt, or providing financial



1 education, insurance enrollment assistance, preventive
2 measures, or similar support services. Information
3 collected that is subject to this paragraph shall be
4 confidential and not disclosed under chapter 92F
5 without the consent of the individual or as otherwise
6 provided by law.

7 (d) The office may, without regard to chapter 103D or
8 103F, as applicable, contract with entities that hold existing
9 medical debt of state residents and have demonstrated experience
10 and success partnering with hospitals and health systems in
11 acquiring and satisfying or forgiving outstanding medical debt
12 on behalf of state and county governments for the purposes of
13 developing, implementing, and administering the medical debt
14 acquisition and forgiveness program.

15 (e) Any acquisition and forgiveness of medical debt under
16 the program shall be negotiated to ensure the best possible
17 value for the State.

18 (f) The office may receive appropriations from the
19 legislature, private funds, or federal funds for the purpose of
20 acquiring and forgiving outstanding medical debt pursuant to
21 this section."



1 SECTION 3. The office shall submit a report of its
2 progress in developing, implementing, and administering the
3 medical debt acquisition and forgiveness program, including any
4 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
5 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
9 office of wellness and resilience to develop, implement, and
10 administer the medical debt acquisition and forgiveness program
11 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act to acquire and
12 forgive outstanding medical debt for certain individuals who are
13 residents of the State; provided that the appropriation made by
14 this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for
15 which the appropriation is made; provided further that all
16 moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2028,
17 shall lapse as of that date.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
19 wellness and resilience for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



S.B. NO. 3025
S.D. 2
H.D. 3
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 9th day of July, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Green" clearly distinguishable.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 3025, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. **1302**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 7, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 7, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2861, S.D. 2, H.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND
RESILIENCE.
ACT 200

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 7 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 200
S.B. NO. 2861
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

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 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has
2 accumulated an estimated \$470,000,000 in unspent temporary
3 assistance for needy families program funding with approximately
4 \$333,000,000 in encumbrances on that funding. These moneys are
5 required to be spent on needy families that meet the eligibility
6 requirements of the temporary assistance for needy families
7 program.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
9 office of wellness and resilience, in consultation with the
10 department of human services, to develop a comprehensive plan
11 for the establishment of a kakou pilot program to support
12 families and children in need.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The office of wellness and resilience, in
14 consultation with the department of human services, shall
15 develop a comprehensive plan for the establishment of a kakou
16 pilot program to support families and children in need.



- 1 (b) For the purposes of the kakou pilot program, the
2 office of wellness and resilience shall create a plan to:
- 3 (1) Provide services for children in need, including child
4 wellness visits;
- 5 (2) Distribute food boxes to eligible families, as needed;
- 6 (3) Provide counseling and related support services to
7 eligible families with a focus on families exiting a
8 foster family placement and other at-risk children as
9 determined by the plan;
- 10 (4) Administer trauma-informed care services to eligible
11 families and children at risk of neglect; and
- 12 (5) Provide any other related services to support families
13 and children in need in accordance with this Act.
- 14 (c) The office of wellness and resilience may adopt
15 policies and procedures necessary to develop the plan for the
16 kakou pilot program and to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- 17 (d) The office of wellness and resilience shall:
- 18 (1) Submit a preliminary report of its comprehensive plan
19 to develop the kakou pilot program, including any
20 proposed legislation, a recommended implementation
21 structure identifying the administering agency or



1 agencies, and recommendations on whether the pilot
2 program should be established, to the legislature no
3 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
4 regular session of 2027; and

5 (2) Submit a final report of its plan to the legislature
6 no later than June 30, 2027.

7 (e) The planning period for the kakou pilot program shall
8 expire on June 30, 2027.

9 (f) For the purposes of this Act, "eligible families"
10 means families who meet eligibility criteria for the temporary
11 assistance for needy families program, as determined by the
12 department of human services, or any other families meeting
13 standards and requirements recommended by the office of wellness
14 and resilience in its comprehensive plan and approved by the
15 administering agency or agencies; provided that such standards
16 shall comply with applicable federal requirements.

17 SECTION 3. Beginning July 1, 2028, the department of human
18 services, pursuant to section 2(d), is authorized and may expend
19 temporary assistance for needy families funds for the purposes
20 of the kakou pilot program, including \$130,000 per year for an
21 external evaluator to conduct data collection and to assess



1 whether the pilot program meets at least one of the purposes of
2 the temporary assistance for needy families program and whether
3 the pilot program effectively addresses that purpose.

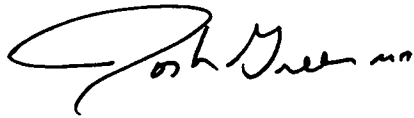
4 SECTION 4. If any part of this Act is found to be in
5 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed
6 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the
7 conflicting part of this Act shall be inoperative solely to the
8 extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly
9 affected, and this finding shall not affect the operation of the
10 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies
11 concerned.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2861
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 7th day of July, 2026

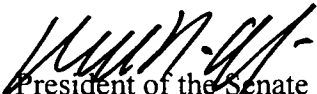
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "G".

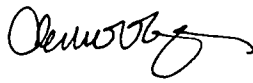
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2861, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

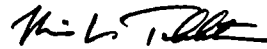
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1303

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 7, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 7, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 3204, S.D. 1, H.D. 1,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO FAMILY RESILIENCE PILOT
PROGRAM.
ACT 201

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 7 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 201
S.B. NO. 3204
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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 resources are necessary to increase family resilience and reduce
3 the risk of child abuse or neglect. Many families at high risk
4 of entering the child welfare system are unaware of available
5 services or how to access them, or public benefits are not
6 available to address the economic or other fiscal challenge they
7 are facing.

8 The malama ohana working group was established by Act 86,
9 Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, within the office of wellness and
10 resilience to seek, design, and recommend transformative changes
11 to the State's existing child welfare system. In its report
12 submitted to the 2025 legislature, the malama ohana working
13 group stated there is a shortage of resources in Hawaii
14 dedicated to preventing children and families' involvement with
15 child welfare services, especially primary prevention and
16 universal support. The malama ohana working group recommended
17 the establishment of primary prevention and universal support



1 programs that are trauma-informed and culturally responsive in
2 an effort to divert children and families away from involvement
3 with the child welfare system.

4 The legislature also finds that community- and school-based
5 organizations are safe, accessible, and non-judgmental spaces
6 where families can access formal and informal supports and
7 referrals. Providing family strengthening programming helps to
8 increase parents' protective factors, including: parental
9 resilience, social connections, concrete support, knowledge of
10 parenting and child development, and social-emotional competence
11 of children. Community- and school-based organizations, such as
12 family resource centers, have been successful in reducing the
13 number of families reported to the child welfare system.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
15 two-year family resilience pilot program within the office of
16 wellness and resilience.

17 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of
18 wellness and resilience a family resilience pilot program to
19 build family resilience and provide comprehensive specialized
20 support services to eligible families. The program shall:



- 1 (1) Hire and train five trauma-informed peer support
2 resource navigators to assist up to eighty families
3 with enrollment in public or other benefits, parenting
4 classes, and cultural family strengthening program
5 services; provided that each peer support resource
6 navigator shall be trained in alignment with the
7 recommendations of the peer support specialists
8 working group established by Act 88, Session Laws of
9 Hawaii 2024; provided further that each peer support
10 resource navigator shall use motivational interviewing
11 methods and serve not more than twenty families;
12 (2) Train program staff on eligibility screening to ensure
13 families meet temporary assistance for needy families
14 (TANF) or related eligibility criteria and connect
15 interested and eligible families with peer support
16 resource navigators;
17 (3) Assist families to identify goals, connect them to
18 community resources and supports, and assist them with
19 applications for public assistance benefits, housing,
20 education, or employment that are in alignment with
21 their identified goals; and



1 (4) Identify monthly parenting classes or cultural family
2 strengthening services offered by contracted or
3 subcontracted providers and connect families to those
4 classes and services as appropriate.

5 (b) The office of wellness and resilience may contract
6 with a third-party administrator to operate the family
7 resilience pilot program.

8 (c) The office of wellness and resilience shall submit a
9 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
10 proposed legislation, on the family resilience pilot program to
11 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
12 of the regular session of 2028. The report shall include the
13 number of eligible families who:

14 (1) Connected to and are receiving community resources and
15 supports;

16 (2) Applied for public assistance benefits, housing,
17 education, or employment;

18 (3) Participated in parenting classes and cultural family
19 strengthening services; and

20 (4) Reported favorable changes in their knowledge,
21 attitudes or beliefs, skill acquisition, behavior, and



1 relationships as a direct result of program
2 participation.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated or authorized from the
4 temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) funds the sum of
5 \$600,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
6 2026-2027 for the family resilience pilot program established
7 pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including the contracting of
8 services to implement and operate the program.

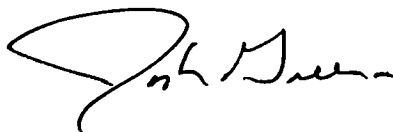
9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 human services for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. If any part of this Act is found to be in
12 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed
13 condition for the allocation of federal funds to the State, the
14 conflicting part of this Act is inoperative solely to the extent
15 of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly
16 affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the
17 remainder of this Act in its application to the agencies
18 concerned.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and
20 shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.

S.B. NO. 3204
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 7th day of July, 2026

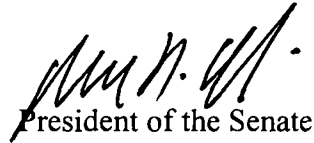
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green", written in a cursive style.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

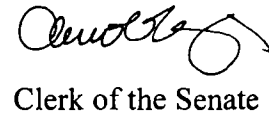
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 3204, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives