



Back row, left to right: Naomi Leipold, project manager; Leilani Willing, wellness and resilience coordinator (WRC-O'ahu); Tia Hartsock, director; Keala Kaopuiki-Santos, project manager; Trina Orimoto, deputy director; Erica Yamauchi, director of communications and engagement; Jodie Burgess, procurement and contracts specialist; Kev Thompson, project manager. Front row: Telesia Pasese, executive administrative assistant; Rachel Nunies, graduate research assistant; Tikki Bisbee, WRC (Maui); Ana Kia, WRC (O'ahu); Nannie Apalla, WRC (Kaua'i).

Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation Training

In February, OWR held its first trauma-informed care (TIC) during the Dept.'s cadet orientation training. The curriculum addresses their unique challenges, acknowledging many have experienced trauma, and includes modules re: trauma fundamentals and responses, impact assessment, self-care and TIC implementation.



Ho'omau: Resilience

Tia Hartsock and Keala Kaopuiki-Santos with revered haku ho'oponopono and social worker Auntie Lynette Paglinawan and Dr. Manulani Meyer at the 5-week Ho'omau: Resilience training celebration, re: how the Hawaiian practice of ho'oponopono can be incorporated in child welfare and family dispute cases.



About the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR)

Our kuleana is to strengthen our state service systems, using hope-centered principles as strategies to make Hawai'i a trauma-informed state. We break down the barriers that impact the well-being of Hawai'i's people - from keiki to kūpuna.

State of Well-Being Project (Act 106)

Our main project objective is to assess and enhance support services at the state level and for high-risk groups. We are working with state and county staff including first responders, healthcare providers and public school staff.

To jump-start the project, we've been meeting with all county mayors statewide. This year, we are focused on completing a landscape assessment of current mental health and well-being supports. To learn more about the Project, visit [our website here](#).



Director's Message



Tia L. R. Hartsock
Director

Aloha, mai kakōu,

It's been a busy few months for us at OWR! Mahalo for your continued support of our Office, and Hawai'i-informed, trauma-informed care across the islands.

This legislative season has been a whirlwind, and it's wild that there is only about a month left until Sine Die on May 2nd, the last day of the 2025 session.

We had an incredibly insightful few days with Dr. Nadine Burke Harris earlier this month (more on that below). Our Office staff is still on Cloud 9 after spending time with her and are looking forward to continuing a statewide conversation on how we can more systematically prevent and mitigate ACES (adverse childhood experiences) in the state.

We are also in the final few months of convening the Peer Support Specialist Working Group ([Act 88](#)), which has been meeting monthly since Sept. 2024. The working group is creating a framework for state peer support specialists. We're excited to support this very tangible form of trauma-informed care implementation throughout the state. For more information, visit owr.hawaii.gov/peersupport.

Mālama pono,

Tia

First CA Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

In early March, the University of Hawai'i's Better Tomorrow Speaker Series, OWR and Governor Josh Green, M.D., hosted Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California's first surgeon general, renowned pediatrician and The Deepest Well author, for a powerful conversation on the long-term effects of trauma and toxic stress. Burke Harris is a national leader in the study of childhood adversity. The discussion highlighted the need for trauma-informed policy in both Hawai'i healthcare and government, and how we're tackling these issues as an Office and as a state. [Watch the recording on [YouTube @uhbtss](#).]



Policy Updates

- We have submitted testimony on 35+ bills and resolutions this session. Below are our current priorities still in play:
 - [SB952](#): Assists families at risk of child welfare involvement by providing them with peer support, cultural programming, parental skill-building, and training in protective factors to prevent child abuse and neglect.
 - [HB1079](#): Establishes trauma-informed organizational assessments and training curricula for child welfare workers to effectively support both families impacted by trauma and the professionals who serve them.
 - [SBI042](#): Creates a pathway for those in need to access innovative, life-saving treatments like psilocybin for trauma and mental health challenges, within the context of a closely monitored clinical research study.
 - [SCR73/SR56](#): Requests OWR to develop a report addressing the developmental needs of children born during the cascading community traumas of the pandemic and Maui wildfires.
 - [SCRI35/SRI14](#): Urges state departments to partner with OWR regarding data-sharing.

This newsletter is a publication of the Office of Wellness & Resilience (OWR), within the Office of Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Let's talk story!

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