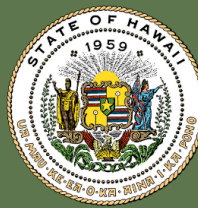


Newsletter



Ke Ke'ena Kūpa'a Maui Ola
Office of Wellness and Resilience
Office of the Governor
Our resilience is rooted in our wellness.



The May meeting of the Peer Support Specialist Working Group, held in person at Windward Community College. The group is set to sunset in June. Please see the last page for more information and/or visit owr.hawaii.gov/peersupport.

Welcome, Tee!

Telesia ("Tee") Pasese, below, our new executive administrative assistant, brings a ton of government experience with her to OWR. A Waipahu native (Go Marauders!) and Saint Martin's University graduate, she's a passionate advocate for the Pacific Islander community, especially around mental health, domestic violence and education – and lifelong singer and pianist.



Umeke Lā'au

OWR's Keala and Naomi were honored to attend a healing gathering on child welfare policy in the 'Umeke Lā'au by Meleanna Meyer when it was in Honolulu Hale. The work of art was recognized with the Golden Hibiscus Award (grand prize) at this year's Hawai'i Triennial 2025 contemporary art exhibition.



State of Well-Being Project (Act 106)

The Project's main goal is to conduct a landscape assessment to evaluate and strengthen wellness and resilience services at the state and county level, including first responders, healthcare providers and public school staff. So far, we've met with 50+ county/state employees and other agencies and community organizations. Next, we'll analyze the data we've gathered, develop a survey and conduct focus groups with participants who are interested in sharing their insights and experiences. To learn more, visit [our website here](#).



Left to right: OWR's Trina Orimoto, Tikki Bisbee, Keala Kaopuiki-Santos, Tia L. Roberts Hartsock, and Maui County's Lori Tshako

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.

Director's Message



Tia L. Roberts
Hartsock, Director

Aloha, mai kakōu,

Summer is here, and we hope you are finding moments of rest and renewal — in the shade of your favorite tree, at the beach, or simply in the quiet between obligations.

The summer season at the Capitol, known as “interim,” is a gift: a chance to breathe, reconnect, and prepare for what’s ahead. At the Office of Wellness and Resilience, we are using this time to do exactly that — deepening our work behind the scenes so we can show up fully when the pace picks back up.

In the meantime, we encourage you to take the season seriously as a time to focus on your own well-being. Whether that means making a doctor’s appointment you’ve been meaning to get around to, a long weekend on a neighbor island, a slower morning routine, or simply permission to not be “on” all the time — you deserve it.

Well-being is not a reward for finishing your to-do list. It is the foundation from which our best work flows.

We are grateful for this community we’re building together, and we look forward to all that is ahead.

Enjoy your summer!

Mālama pono,

Tia

Interim Policy Update

Although most of our bills did not pass this session, we are thankful for the opportunities to advocate for trauma-informed care policy throughout our state systems. We also had two resolutions adopted by the Senate that we will begin working on during the interim.

- [SCR73/SR56](#): Requests OWR to develop a report addressing the developmental needs of keiki born during the community traumas of the pandemic and Maui wildfires.
- [SCR135/SRI14](#): Urges state departments to partner with OWR regarding data-sharing.

Below, OWR staff and advocates with The Clarity Project, from both the islands of O’ahu and Hawai‘i, gather to bring awareness to breakthrough therapies as an innovative trauma treatment via legislative testimony.




Peer Support Working Group Wraps Up

Signed into law in 2024, [Act 88](#) established the Peer Support Specialist Working Group. As administrator, OWR convened state departments, community partners and people with lived expertise to develop a framework for infusing the voices of those who have navigated our systems into the work of improving them. In May, 75+ people gathered in person at Windward Community College, many with lived experience. Participants shared their hopes and dreams for this work during a powerful day of building pilina (connection) and learning about peer support programs across the islands.



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!

 (808) 586-0805

 gov.owr@hawaii.gov

 owr.hawaii.gov