

Honolulu, Hawaii

August 11, 2006

RE: H.R. No. 53

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.R. No. 53
entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A STATEWIDE SUICIDE EARLY INTERVENTION
AND PREVENTION PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this resolution is to develop a comprehensive
statewide youth suicide and early intervention and prevention plan
to provide effective early intervention and prevention services to
deal with the rising rates of youth suicides.

Your Committee received comments on this resolution from the State
of Hawaii, Department of Health and testimony in support from the
Hawaii Suicide Prevention Steering Committee.

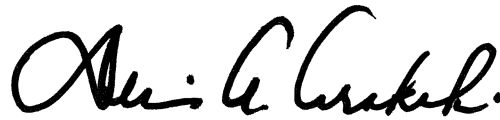
Your Committee finds that more children and young adults die from
suicide each year than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth
defects, stroke, and chronic lung disease combined and
nationally over four thousand youths take their lives annually,
making suicide the third largest cause of death among those who
are between ten and twenty-four years of age. Moreover, in Hawaii
suicide is the second leading cause of death among those who are
fifteen to twenty-four years of age and the rates of youth suicide
have been on the rise in the last decade among both females and
males and among all ethnic groups in Hawaii. Suicide is a serious
public health tragedy affecting not only children and young

adults, but all adults in Hawaii, and preserving and protecting the lives of all people is a priority for the State.

Accordingly, your Committee notes that a concerted statewide youth suicide education, intervention, and prevention plan is needed to ensure prevention strategies to effectively deal with youth suicide.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 53 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair

