

**Date:** 01/28/2011

**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0691 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

**Purpose of Bill:** Provides for continued funding for a teen suicide prevention coordinator within the department of health and for teen suicide prevention services within the department of education. Makes appropriations to departments of health and education.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 691 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2011-2013. The appropriation to the Department should include restoration of a 12-month Peer Education Program (PEP) Resource Teacher (RT) and a full-time (1.0 FTE) clerk-typist. The RT is needed to effectively coordinate and expand PEP services to all secondary schools and to support suicide prevention community networking in schools; clerical position is needed for data and reporting requirements necessary for proactive student supports. Currently, 25 PEP coordinators have been provided curriculum resources and training to implement the *Signs of Suicide* curriculum with high school students in PEP, and provide outreach services to students in their schools, and feeder middle and elementary schools.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment  
Center (Formerly Children's  
Comprehensive Services

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser  
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI  
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalih Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center  
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

January 25, 2011

To: Representative Ryan Yamae, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Health

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 691 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, supports HB 691 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention.

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a remarkably high number of youth who have thought about or attempted suicide.

Providing funding to the Department of Health and Department of Education for youth suicide prevention could:

1. Provide training for teachers and other school personnel on suicide prevention and response;
2. Establish educational programs for students that would help them deal with the issues that lead to suicide and seek help for themselves or their parents;
3. Support community-based education and prevention programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please accept my apologies for not appearing in person to testify; I am traveling on HYSN business on the mainland.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark  
Executive Director

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 1:07 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** john001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB691 on 1/28/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB691

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John Steitz  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [john001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:john001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

**Comments:**

Hi my name is John,

I am sorry I could not be present to testify on HB691. I do support the bill. Teen Suicide has been an on going issue that we must prevent.

Mahalo for letting me testify,

John Steitz