

**Date:** 02/14/2011

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0691, HD1 (HSCR 72) 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 0691, HD1 (HSCR 72), as long as implementation does not impact or replace priorities in the 2011-13 Executive Biennium Budget. The Department recommends that the language of this Bill be aligned to its companion SB 918.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** Judith Clark [jclark@hysn.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 1:36 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony HB 691  
**Attachments:** hb691 suicide.doc

February 11, 2011

Committee: Education  
Chair: Rep. Roy Takumi  
Date: 2/14/2011; 2:05 p.m.  
Room 309

Testimony is in the attached file and also pasted below in case of difficulty opening the attachment. Mahalo.

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February 11, 2011

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

### **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.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark  
Executive Director

Judith F. Clark  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Youth Services Network  
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# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

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

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

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-Hecia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

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

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

February 11, 2011

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark  
Executive Director

## SAMPLE TESTIMONY

February 12, 2011

TO: House Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair

FROM: Roxanne Cruz

RE: HB 691 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTTION

Bill to be heard on February 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

Chair Roy Takumi and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Roxanne Cruz I'm currently a student in the BSW program at Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying in SUPPORT of HB 691 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention.

The purpose of HB 691 is for the continued funding for the suicide prevention coordinator within the department of health. Act 124, Sessions laws of Hawaii 2007, established a youth suicide early intervention and prevention program for Hawaii. Legislature finds that males are more likely than females to commit suicide, and native Hawaiian youths are the most likely ethnic group to attempt or commit suicide. The rate of attempted suicides in Hawaii for high school students is more than double the national average. Due to the recent cases of Hawaii's youth who have committed suicide effort for continued funding is necessary. HB 691 is asking for the same sum of funding given the prior year or as much needed for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the same sum or as much needed for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. This bill is very important to continue awareness, education, and provide services that promote early intervention and prevention programs for Hawaii's youth.

I strongly support HB 691 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention and urge your **favorable support** of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.