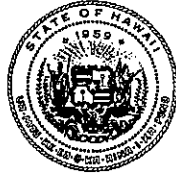


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**WRITTEN
ONLY**

LORETTA FUDDY, ACSW, MPH,
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

SB 918, RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

**Testimony of Loretta Fuddy, ACSW, MPH
Acting Director of Health**

February 1, 2011

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this measure to appropriate
2 continued funding for the suicide prevention coordinator within the department, however we do not feel
3 an appropriation is necessary this time.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates continued funding for a suicide prevention coordinator within the
5 Department of Health.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** We appreciate the intent of this bill to continue funding for the suicide
7 prevention coordinator within the Department of Health. However, the Department of Health
8 established a suicide prevention coordinator position in 2005 under the Injury Prevention and Control
9 Section, EMS and Injury Prevention System Branch through a trade-off transfer utilizing existing
10 resources within the Department. The IPCS Suicide Prevention Coordinator is responsible for
11 coordinating the statewide suicide prevention efforts in collaboration with the Prevent Suicide Hawaii
12 Taskforce (PSHTF) which IPCS helped to establish in 2006. We thank the Legislature for their
13 continued support of suicide prevention efforts for Hawaii's youth.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Date: 02/01/2011

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0918 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 SB 0918 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2011-13. 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

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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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-Heeiea Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Huri Too

Kokua Kalihi 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 29, 2011

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 918 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth serving organizations, supports SB 918 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