

HCR66 HD1

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN HAWAII BY AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT BY 2025.

Report Title: Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force; Suicide Reduction

Description:

Companion: [HR30](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): BELATTI, CREAGAN, FUKUMOTO CHANG, HASHEM, JORDAN, KOBAYASHI, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, OSHIRO, YAMANE



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR0066
REQUESTING THE PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO
RECOMMEND A STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN HAWAII BY AT
LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT BY 2025.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND
HEALTH

Hearing Date: Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:00am Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure, which
3 requests the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF) to develop a strategic plan to reduce
4 suicides by 25% by 2025. The PSHTF will submit the strategic plan with recommendations to
5 reduce suicide to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to convening of the Regular
6 Session of 2018.

7 Suicide is a serious public health problem in Hawaii. From 2010 to 2014, suicide was the leading
8 cause of fatal injuries and the 10th leading cause of death among Hawaii residents of all ages. In
9 Hawaii, one person dies by suicide every two days. Updated data during this period show there
10 were 908 deaths by suicide in the state, 2708 emergency department visits, and 1863 hospital
11 admissions. The rate of suicide deaths in Hawaii is 12 per 100,000 population.

12 Establishing a time-limited subcommittee with representative membership will give greater
13 visibility and weight to the work of the PSHTF in addressing suicide prevention as a major
14 public health issue. The strategic plan will guide policy making and future funding efforts for
15 reducing suicides in Hawaii.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR Suicide Prevention

Hawai`i Chapter

April 18, 2016

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Monday April 18, 2016 at 10 AM, Room 016**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michele N. Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Eric Tash
Chair, Hawai`i Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

RE: **HCR66 HD1**: Requesting The Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF) to Recommend a Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides in Hawaii by at Least Twenty-Five Per Cent By 2025.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai`i Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is in **support of HCR66 HD1**, which requests the PSHTF establish a temporary subcommittee to assist the PSHTF in recommending a strategic plan to reduce suicides in Hawai`i by 25% by 2025. AFSP Hawai`i Chapter supports developing a state strategic plan as a crucial step in preventing and reducing the incidence of suicide in Hawai`i.

Many people in our community have been touched by suicide. In Hawai`i, suicide is the single leading cause of injury death. One person dies by suicide every two days, and one person is hospitalized every day after attempting to take his or her own life. The impact suicide has on the lives of family members, friends, co-workers and the community is devastating. The loss of human potential is enormous. Fortunately, there is hope; most suicides are preventable.

Establishing a subcommittee to assist the PSHTF in developing a state strategic plan would help to ensure that state and community efforts are prioritized, focused, collaborative, coordinated and sustainable and that progress is tracked and measurable.

We urge you to support the passage of HCR66 HD1. Passage of this Resolution would mark a significant step on the road to reduce suicide in Hawai`i 25% by 2025 and is good public policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide.

Established in July 2014, the Hawai`i Chapter's mission is to focus its efforts on the concerns and needs of our community in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.



April 18, 2016

Senate
Twenty-Eight Legislature
2016 State of Hawai'i
H.C.R. 66 H.D.1

Hearing: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, Monday, April 18, 2016 at 10 AM, Conference Room 016

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
And Members

From: Pua Kaninau-Santos
Chair, O'ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce
Steering Committee Member Statewide Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce

REQUESTING THE PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN HAWAII BY AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT BY 2025.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and committee members,

On behalf of the O'ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce members convey support of **HCR 66 HD1**. Our members are partnership of state, public, and private agencies and community groups working in collaboration to provide leadership, develop strategies, coordinate activities, and monitor progress of suicide prevention efforts in the State.

Our member's voices are representative of communities across O'ahu and with partners far reaching in communities from across the state. Our members are survivors of suicide loss (lost someone to suicide), lived experiences (attempts), providers of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention services, and those interested in making a difference.

We know by experience the impact suicide has on individuals, families, and our communities. Please pass this resolution that will support to convene expertise of and experience of partners in fields or disciplines related to suicide prevention, education, and awareness of suicide prevention to the forward movement of, "Passing Life Forward" as we focus and complete the Hawai'i Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides Twenty-five (25%) Per Cent by 2015.

Establishing a subcommittee with the kule`ana set forth per the resolution supported by our legislature, instills hope for our community.

Mahalo



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
Witness to Jesus



DATE: April 13, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health
Senator Roz Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director – Hawaii Catholic Conference

POSITION: Support for HCR 66 HD1, Resolution on a Task Force on Suicide Prevention

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Walter Yoshimitsu, the executive director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference which is the public policy voice of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii. Too many people at risk for suicide do not seek help. It is essential that people from across the spectrum of services, both secular and faith-based, come together to find a solution to prevent suicides in Hawaii. This includes either suicides by one's own hand or those made by request to a physician.

As a conference, we believe that each and every human life is sacred. Because of that, we advocate for public policy that will save lives, not end them. On this point we have never wavered.

Suicide affects people from every age, faith, or ethnicity. In fact, right here in Hawaii, according to the State Department of Health, "suicide was the leading cause of fatal injuries and the 10th leading cause of death among Hawaii residents of all ages."ⁱ Many organizations are already doing great work to prevent the loss of innocent lives; however, more can and should be done.

Sadly, when an individual takes their own life, it does not end the suffering. In fact, it is quite the contrary. The truth remains that the pain of suicide will continue thereby negatively affecting the family and even the wider community. Fortunately, there is strong evidence that a comprehensive public health approach is effective in reducing suicide rates. As our state puts aside differences and makes a plan to come together and focus on our collective roles in suicide prevention, we will make a difference in our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

ⁱ State Department of Health testimony on March 18, 2016.

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

(The public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii)



ONLINE SUBMITTAL

Hearing on: Monday, April 18, 2016
Conference Room #016

DATE: April 17, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Sen. Roz Baker, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Support** for HCR66 HD1 Requesting the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force to Recommend a Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides in Hawaii by at Least Twenty-Five Per Cent by 2025.

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening life, family and religious freedom in Hawaii. We are committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Because we are a pro-life organization, we are concerned about the loss of innocent life. Especially when it affects the vulnerable among us including our youth, elderly and infirmed.

Research indicates that suicide now ranks as the third leading cause of death among young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four, just behind homicide and auto accidents. For many younger people — attempted suicide is often a "cry for help." Experts point out that suicidal behaviors in young people are usually rooted in many different factors, with mental health issues playing an important role in the overall mix. It is a "perfect storm" of emotional issues and the only way to begin making a difference, is by identifying and treating each person.

It is not just the young people who are suffering however, many elderly people who attempt suicide usually succeed. National statistics report that every day in the United States, 17 adults over the age of 65 commit suicide¹ — the highest suicide rate of any demographic group. The good news is that lowering the incidence of suicide can be done.

Establishing a task force to create a plan is good step in the right direction. Ongoing and planned collaboration with treatment providers and community resources, including members of the faith-based community, to form a subcommittee focusing on the needs of youth and our kupuna is simply the right thing to do. This resolution makes a strong statement on something with which the community can agree. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicide-datasheet-a.pdf>

April 14, 2016

Hearing: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
Monday April 18, 2016 at 10 AM, Conference Room 016.

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Alexander Gino, Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, Master of Social
Work candidate

RE: HCR 66, HD1: Requesting The Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF)
to Recommend a Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides in Hawaii by at Least
Twenty-Five Per Cent By 2025.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

In my experience as a crisis therapist and substance abuse/mental health counselor, it appears that many of the thought processes involved in addictive patterns are also involved in suicidal ideation.

In my experience, much of the motivation to use drugs, as with suicidal ideation, is pain avoidance. Too often people become overwhelmed, anxious, depressed, and hopeless, and instead of leaning into their emotional distress to gain invaluable wisdom, the mind creates the desire to escape via drugs or some other addictive thinking or behavior pattern. Once an individual with addictive or suicidal tendencies leans into and processes his/her pain, and that pain is seen for what it is; an inevitable yet manageable part of life that is accompanied by joy, the desire to escape diminishes. In other words, the mountain that was once insurmountable becomes surmountable as well as adaptive in the individual's mind.

Reducing suicides in Hawaii by at least Twenty-Five Per Cent by 2025 is a challenging yet attainable task. I am in support of HCR 66, but would like to recommend that the PSHTF add several members to its task force including a substance abuse counselor and local artists. An experienced substance abuse counselor can contribute by explaining the relationship between addictive patterns and suicidality. Local artists (poet, musician, painter, dancer, etc.) can translate the material created by the task force into art that may speak to the heart of the individual who is thinking to take his/her life.

I thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,
Alex

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: In Support of HCR66 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO SUICIDE REDUCTION

Hearing: Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christel Magallanes, and I **strongly support** the intent of HCR66 H.D. 1 that requests for the prevent suicide task force to recommend a strategic plan to reduce suicides in Hawaii by at least twenty-five percent by 2025.

Within the last year suicide has surpassed traffic fatalities as the number one cause of death in Hawaii. For the last 10 years I have been working within the Hawaii Department of Education and have noticed the increase in student suicide attempts. In comparison nationally, Hawaii's suicide rate is significantly higher among 15 to 19 year olds. There are not many resources for students to access in order to get help. Suicide not only affects one person but everyone around them including family, friends, loved ones, and the community.

Suicide is very preventable and by creating a strategic plan to reduce suicides by at least twenty-five percent by 2025 can insure these individuals to a healthier life.

Sincerely,

Christel Magallanes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: elenase@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR66 on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016 12:01:28 AM

HCR66

Submitted on: 4/17/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Endo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Coming from a family with a history of suicide it use to haunt me that maybe one day I would be so stressed and unable to get the help that I need that I myself may turn to suicide. I wish someone was there to help my family when they needed it. I wish to prevent others from the same fate. I support this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Testimony for Senate Hearing of HCR66 to be heard on Monday, April 18, 2016 by Senator Baker's Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health in Conference Room 016.

RE: HCR 66: Requesting The Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF) to Recommend a Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides in Hawaii by at Least Twenty-Five Per Cent By 2025.

From: Helen Yolisa Duley, East Hawaii Suicide Prevention Task Force Chair

Dear Senator Baker and Senate Committee members,

I have worked in suicide prevention for the past three years in Hawaii County, and currently serve as the East Hawaii Prevent Suicide Task Force Chair.

Suicide is the leading cause of death by injury, and Hawaii County has the highest rate of suicides in the state. Increased efforts to reduce the number of suicides by 25% by 2025 will positively impact our island families and communities.

I support **Bill HCR66** and ask that it be passed without hesitation as its implementation would help to augment the efforts already being made to reduce the number of suicides in our island communities, and allow for collaborative and coordinated planning and action. Furthermore, I recommend that the representation of subcommittee members include representation from each county because each county has unique demographics and issues that need to be resolved in order to reduce the number of suicides. Therefore I ask that the wording in Bill HCR66 include in its temporary subcommittee list of serving members: "at least one from each county".

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Helen Yolisa Duley

Testimony for HCR 66 HD1

Position: **SUPPORT**

Aloha,

My name is Ivan and I would like to write in support of HCR 66HD1. Being that suicide is the most common cause of fatal injuries in our state, it is a large public health concern and a major stressor for the families involved. It's always very difficult to think about all the lives and the potential that has been lost from each suicide. This measure's attempt at creating a strategic plan with the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force is great in that it seeks to incorporate different professionals who bring their own area of expertise to the field and comes at a time when mental health in America is receiving more attention as something that needs to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan C.

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

RE: HCR 66 HD 1

Date: Monday April 18, 2016

Time and Place: 10:00 am, Conference RM 016

My name is James Miyashiro and I am currently a graduate student at UH Manoa pursuing my Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.

I feel that suicide is an important issue that must be attended to. To hear and know that every two days an individual succumbs to suicide is very disturbing. As a person who has acknowledged this issue, I can only imagine what/how an individual was feeling before they passed. I feel that having a plan of action (intervention plan) on dealing with this issue is important on the reduction on suicide rates. I am also in agreement with the appointing of committee members. It is important to have a variety of members, from all areas that have a connection with suicide, so that a plan of action (from start to follow ups) will reduce the occurrence of suicide.

I hope that by establishing a plan of action and setting an expectation goal will reduce the suicide rate here in Hawaii. We are Hawaii, a place of warm weather and Aloha; where the concept of 'family' is strong locally. Lets stand by that reputation and take care of those in need of help.

Sincerely,

James Miyashiro

Candidate for the Master of Social Work – UH Manoa (2017)

Testimony of Jasmin Chang
jasminch@hawaii.edu

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR66 HD1
REQUESTING THE PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A STRATEGIC
PLAN TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN HAWAII BY AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT BY 2025.**

REPRESENTATIVE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH
Hearing Date: Monday, April 18, 2016, 10:00am Room Number: 016

Chair, Vice-chair, and the rest of the members of the committee,

I, Jasmin Chang, am in support of this measure, which requests the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force to develop a plan to reduce suicides by 25% by 2025.

Suicide must be recognized as a major, preventable public health issue. Last year, Hawaii County Prosecutor Mitch Roth declared Hawaii to be in the “midst of a suicide epidemic”, and the numbers truly reflect his statement: the state average is 62.6 deaths per 100,000 people. Suicide rates among Hawaii youth has decreased since 2008, yet Hawaii continues to remain in the top 10 in the nation for rates of youth whom contemplated suicide, planned a suicide, or attempted suicide. The number two cause of death for youth in our state is suicide. Why is that? Too many youth who should be enjoying their childhood and adolescence with their friends and family, have lost their lives to suicide. Suicide hurts individuals, families, and communities.

We truly believe that the Legislature cares for all the people of Hawaii, including their health, safety, and welfare. We also believe that the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force is highly competent and equally as capable of assist in the development of plans that would improve education, awareness, support services, and outreach to prevent suicides in Hawaii and ultimately reduce the number by 25% in 2025. Establishing a subcommittee that consists of members from not only the PSHTF, but also experts in the field of behavioral and mental health, and suicide survivors would be incredibly beneficial in terms of knowledge and expertise with his major public health concern. This bill would allow for such policy making and funding to be implemented.

We must not only focus on raising education and awareness regarding suicide, but must also work to analyze reoccurring patterns and recognize the systemic issues that may be driving such populations to suicidal intentions. Thank you for giving potential members a chance to share their voices and truly make a difference in the lives of our people. This is a bill that should be an integral part of our legislature and community. Therefore, I strongly ask you to support the passage of HCR66.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Sincerely,
Jasmin Chang

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: katinka@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR66 on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM*
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016 9:02:48 PM

HCR66

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katinka B. Hammerich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HCR66 HD1

April 16, 2016

Natalia Werkoff

Aloha, my name is Natalia Werkoff and I am a Graduate Social Work Student from the University of Hawai'i. I would like to testify that I am *for* the proposed bill HCR66 HD1 that would require the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force to recommend a strategic plan to reduce suicides in Hawai'i by at least 25% by 2025.

In addition to studying social work, I have a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University. I have experiences interning in family courts, 3 of San Francisco county jails in California, and at Queen's Day Treatment Services with the severely mentally ill. I have also worked with homeless youth in San Francisco for 3 years. I have been working with clients who suffer from depression, suicidal ideations, and have had multiple suicide attempts for many years. Many of them know what services are available to them (i.e. the access hotline), but have told me on numerous occasions that it doesn't help. Multiple clients feel that the result is being sent to a crisis shelter. Another client told me that she stopped calling because she is afraid they will send the police to their house.

Mental Health Services in Hawai'i need to improve as a whole, and improving the suicide prevention task force's services is a great place to start. Having a strategic plan will allow the development of ideas to better help the people of Hawai'i suffering from depression.

Mahalo for your time,

Natalia Werkoff

Kaniela Kaninau

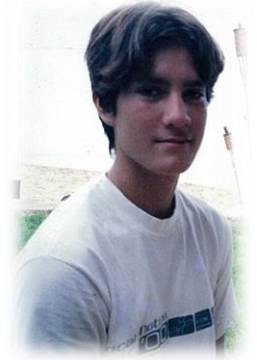
March 31, 1985 – April 5, 2003

April 18, 2016

HCR 66 HD1 Hearing: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Monday April 18, 2016 at 10 AM
Conference Room 016

To: Senator Rosalind Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee Members

From: Pua Kaninau-Santos
Survivor
Chair, O`ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce
Steering Committee Member Statewide Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce



HCR 66 HD1, REQUESTING THE PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN HAWAII BY AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT BY 2025.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and committee members,

My name is Pua Kaninau Santos, I am mother and survivor in the aftermath of my son, Kaniela Kaninau's Suicide, April 5, 2003. I am also a family member who has provided support during the crisis and outreach for a grandchild who attempted suicide, just recently. Going to the emergency room, group meet with the psychiatrist, Dr., family debrief and completion of a safe plan.

Have also been a part of the process of providing suicide first aid intervention time and again for those at risk, suicide debrief with families having lost a love one to suicide, debrief for families going through the aftermath of an attempt (completing a safe plan with a focus on safety for now), facilitate a Hope, Help, and Healing (survivors of a loved one's suicide) grief group, case management/counseling for those struggling in the aftermath, facilitator of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (Suicide First-Aid) and safeTALK (alert helpers), and more.

I know how it is to have been that mom, whose son was at school with the vice-principal and counselor the day he took his life, and even they did not know he was in an acute suicidal crisis. I didn't know he was in an acute suicidal crisis! It was at that time suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death for Hawai'i youth and I had not a clue this was a critical risk factor for my child. Had zero awareness or skills.

I understand full heartedly the implications, possibilities, and hope HRC66 HD1 brings in support of our Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce. I have been on board in support of, "Passing Life Forward" with the work of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. I am so deeply moved and grateful (beyond words) by this thoughtful and provoking/causing action. Together 25% X25 Hiki NO!!!

Mahalo for the opportunity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pua Kaninau-Santos".

Pua Kaninau-Santos
Mother of Kaniela Kaninau – Kalani HS, Class of 2003

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR66 on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 9:35:14 AM

HCR66

Submitted on: 4/15/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this because suicide is a serious issue especially among the youth that needs to be addressed.

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