

LATE

April 18, 2016

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR HCR 66 HD1/HR 30 HD1

Requesting that the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force

*Recommend a Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides in Hawai'i by at Least 25% by 2025
(Hearing on April 18, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 016)*

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and health,

My name is Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda. My professional training is in public health and research, with the majority of my experience relating to mental/behavioral health, including suicide prevention. I am a member of the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force (PSHTF), which is identified in HCR 66 HD1/HR 30 HD1. I served as Chair in 2014, and will serve again from 2017-2018. I am also a Board Member for the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), and am a certified trainer in the "SafeTALK" and "Connect" suicide prevention curricula.

Please first allow me to convey a heartfelt THANK YOU for continuing to serve as champions for suicide prevention in Hawai'i. When our Legislative Leadership conveys the importance of such an issue, the community listens. Your support of HCR 66 HD1/HR 30 HD1, as well as your sponsorship of our September 2015 informational briefing, are powerful demonstrations of the priority that our Legislators have given to suicide prevention.

As you know, *ONE PERSON DIES BY SUICIDE EVERY TWO DAYS IN HAWAII*. As I often say in trainings, "This is an issue that does not discriminate" – suicide unfortunately affects all groups, communities, and disciplines. In addition, the immense stigma around mental health and suicidality increases the challenge that faces us when encouraging people to seek help if needed.

The Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Task Force (PSHTF) is a community-based group of individuals who have voluntarily come together to promote suicide prevention in our communities. The original group came together in 2001. Today, we are a statewide network of individuals and organizations dedicated to reducing suicide attempts and deaths across our communities.

I am in strong support of HCR 66 HD1 and HR 30 HD1, which will allow the PSHTF to formalize a strategic plan and communicate it directly to the Legislature. While the PSHTF is comprised of individuals with remarkable expertise, passion, and motivation, formalization of a

strategic plan will allow us to move forward with specific direction. We are also excited to have such support from the Legislature, and to welcome new organizations to collaborate on this issue and contribute their expertise to the strategic plan.

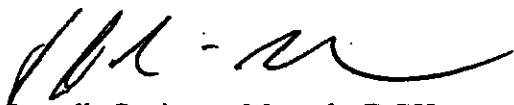
I would like to offer one minor amendment for your consideration:

- 1) Sub-committee composition (beginning on Page 2, Line 30):
 - a. Include language to ensure statewide representation.
 - i. Position 1 (Page 2, Lines 34-37) – edit language to say, “Four members to be appointed by the Governor, at least one from each County, two of whom are requested to be suicide attempt or loss survivors.”

Thank you again, Senator Baker, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. Although you must hear the words THANK YOU many times a day, please do know how heartfelt our gratitude really is. Many of us working in this field do so because of personal experiences with mental illness and/or suicide, and so our passion to “pass life forward” is real and true. We feel immensely honored by your leadership and commitment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (junesugi@yahoo.com, or 808-291-9930), should you have further questions or concerns.

Most Sincerely,



Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, DrPH

baker2 - Lia/Eve

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 9:22 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: cathyh@hospiceofhilo.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR66 on Apr 18, 2016 10:00AM

HCR66

Submitted on: 4/18/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Hough	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a Bereavement Counselor and member of the E. Hawaii Suicide Prevention Task Force, I urge your support of HCR 66. Suicide is a growing concern in the State of Hawaii and needs to be addressed by the professionals to be included in the proposed sub-committee.

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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