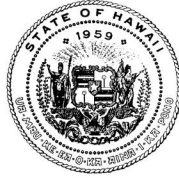


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**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.**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Hearing Date: Friday, March 18, 2016, 9:00am Room Number: 329

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 2017.

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **Offered Amendments:**

17 The DOH respectfully recommends the following amendments to HCR0066:

1 Page 4, line 18: The task force will submit a Strategic Plan with recommendations to reduce  
2 suicide to the legislature “twenty days prior to convening of Regular Session of 2017” to reflect  
3 the preferred date of 2018 to facilitate completion of the strategic plan to reduce suicides in  
4 Hawaii.”

5 Page 3, line 2 (4), which reads “One member to be appointed by the Substance Abuse and  
6 Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health” to be  
7 replaced with “One member from the Adult Mental Health Services Division and Prevent  
8 Suicide Hawaii task force, to be appointed by the Director of Health.”

9 Page 3, line 7, (5), which reads “The suicide prevention program manager for the United States  
10 Reserves in Hawaii” to be replaced with “One member from the Veterans Administration,  
11 Hawaii Chapter, the suicide prevention program manager for the Army Suicide Prevention Task  
12 Force, and one member of the Pacific Regional Behavioral Health Alliance”

13 Page 3, line 10, (6), which reads “The suicide prevention coordinator for the department of  
14 health” be removed as a task force member.

15 Page 3, line 13, (7), which reads “One member from the Injury Prevention and Control Section,  
16 to be appointed by the Director of Health be removed as a task force member

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of

Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services

Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

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

Parents and Children Together

(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

March 16, 2016

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Health

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 66/HR 30 REQUESTING THE  
PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A  
STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE SUICIDES IN HAWAII BY AT  
LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT BY 2025**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 66/HR 30 Requesting the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force to Recommend a Strategic Plan to Reduce Suicides in Hawaii by at Least Twenty-Five Percent by 2025

Compared to their peers across the United States, Hawaii's public school students have a higher risk of suicide. Among Hawaii public school students, the 2013 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey shows that in the previous 12 months:

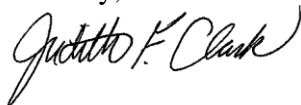
- 15.2% had made a suicide plan (13.6% in the U.S.); and,
- 10.7% had made a suicide attempt (8.0% for the U.S.).

Suicide is the second most common cause of death for young people ages 15 – 34.

Suicide is preventable. With appropriate education to families and other bystanders and adequate resources for substance abuse and mental health treatment, we can save lives. Hawaii needs a comprehensive plan to reduce injury and death from suicide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



# AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR Suicide Prevention

## Hawai`i Chapter

March 16, 2016

**Hearing: House Health Committee, Friday March 18, 2016 at 9 AM, Conference Room 329.**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

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

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.

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 HCR 66**, 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 HCR 66. 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.*



March 17, 2016

**HCR 66 Hearing: House Health Committee, Friday March 18, 2016 at 9 AM, Conference Rm 329**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

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

**HCR 66, 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 Belatti, Representative Creagan, and committee members,

On behalf of the O`ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce members convey support of **HCR 66**. 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 HCR66 to support the convening of partners with expertise and experience in suicide prevention, education, and awareness to galvanize the 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.

We also request your consideration to extend the timeline to 2018.

Establishing a subcommittee as an integral part of the taskforce that is supported by our legislature instills much hope for our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Pua Kaninau-Santos  
Chair - O`ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce  
98-626 Moanalua Loop #107  
Aiea, HI 96701

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:52 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** vanderso@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR66 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HCR66**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

March 17, 2016

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SUPPORT AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR HCR 66/HR 30**

*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 March 18, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 329)*

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the House Committee on 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/HR 30. 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/HR 30, 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 HAWAI'I*. 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 and HR 30***, 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 a few minor amendments for your consideration:***

- 1) Sub-committee composition (beginning on Page 2, Line 30):
  - a. Include language to ensure statewide representation, as well as inclusion of both suicide attempt and loss survivors.
    - i. Position 1 (Page 2, Lines 34-36) – edit language to say, “Five 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.”
  - b. Include language to ensure participation of both active-duty and reserve military branches, as they are already partners within the PSHTF.
    - i. Position 5 (Page 3, Lines 7-8) – edit language to say, “The Suicide Prevention Program Managers for the United States Reserves in Hawai‘i, the Hawai‘i Army Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Hawai‘i Chapter of the Veterans Administration, and the Pacific Region Behavioral Health Alliance, or their designees.” (The corresponding language at the end of Page 4 would also need to be adjusted.)
  - c. Positions relating to the Hawai‘i Department of Health
    - i. Position 4 (Page 3, Lines 2-5) – replace “One member to be appointed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health,” with, “One member from the Adult Mental Health Division, and one member from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, to be appointed by the Director of Health.”
    - ii. Omit position 7 (Page 3, Lines 13-14), as this will be covered via position 6 (Page 3, Lines 10-11), since the Department of Health’s Suicide Prevention Coordinator is housed within the Injury Prevention and Control Section.
- 2) Timeline
  - a. As it will likely take some time for all appointments to be made, members to convene, etc., we respectfully request to extend the deadline for completion of the strategic plan.
    - i. Page 4, Line 10, relating to when the group would convene – change to, “...meet as often as necessary during 2016-2017.”
    - ii. On Page 4, Lines 17-18, relating to submission of the final plan to the Legislature – change to, “...no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018.”

Thank you again, Representative Belatti, Representative Creagan, and Members of the House Committee on 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](mailto:junesugi@yahoo.com), or 808-291-9930), should you have further questions or concerns.

Most Sincerely,



Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, DrPH





March 17, 2016

**HCR 66 Hearing: House Health Committee, Friday March 18, 2016 at 9 AM,  
Conference Rm 329**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

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

**HCR 66, 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 Belatti, Representative Creagan, and committee members,

My name is Pua Kaninai Santos, I am mother and survivor in the aftermath of my son, Kaniela Kaninai'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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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% X 25 Hiki NO!!!

I also request your consideration to extend the timeline to 2018.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pua Kaninai Santos".

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