

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2169 H.D.1**  
**RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 02/23/18 11:00am Room Number: 308

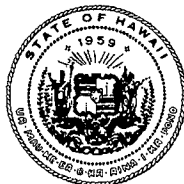
1 **Fiscal Implications:** H.B. 2169 HD1 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal  
2 year 2018-2019 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in  
3 Maui county. The Department defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request for  
4 appropriations and personnel priorities.

5 **Department Testimony: The Department of Health supports the intent of H.B. 2169 H.D.1.**  
6 Between 2010 -2016 there were 150 suicides among all residents aged 10 to 24 years, making  
7 suicide the leading cause of injury death for this age group. The 150 suicides accounted for 28%  
8 of all deaths among residents of this age, and 40% of the injury-related deaths. The annual  
9 number varied from 24 to 38 deaths per year. For every youth who dies from suicide in Hawaii,  
10 there are an estimated 8 (239 per year) who are hospitalized and another 18 (540 per year) who  
11 are treated in emergency departments (ED) for nonfatal self-inflicted injuries each year.

12 Rates of suicide among youth are higher for all Neighbor Islands in comparison to Honolulu  
13 County. EMSIPSB data shows that youth suicide and attempted suicide are significantly higher  
14 in rural communities compared to Oahu

15 Given the higher rates of youth suicide in rural communities, the Emergency Medical Services  
16 and Injury Prevention System Branch respectively recommends that H.B. 2169 H.D.1 be amended  
17 to include the distribution of funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education  
18 initiatives to Hawaii County, Kauai County, and Maui County.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**  
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 22, 2018

**TO:** The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Merton Chinen, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** **HB 2169, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention**

Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2018, 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** OYS supports the measure. Suicide is a serious community and public health problem. Prevention of suicide requires ongoing awareness, education, and training to provide multiple-tools for Hawaii's people to prevent suicide. Youth at-risk are vulnerable to suicide and require a caring network of responsive adults and peers to act in a timely manner to connect appropriate services to assist and intervene. OYS defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request for appropriations and personnel priorities.

As a member of the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce, we were guided by four core values guide our efforts related to suicide prevention—Aloha, Ola, Connectivity, and Culture. *Aloha*, is essential for all relationships and imperative to suicide prevention. *Ola* refers to life, health, hope, healing, contentment, and peace after a struggle, creating both a personal and spiritual sense of connectedness to others and place. Connectivity in times of need is frequently expressed by those who have attempted suicide, as well as by those dedicated to preventing suicide in our communities. Culture refers to the values, traditions, and practices, of any group and is an important consideration in suicide prevention, particularly with our diverse communities. The Hawai'i Suicide Prevention Strategy recognizes that suicide prevention should be woven into all aspects of our lives.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the measure is to appropriate funds to support youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui County.

**HB-2169-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:16:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Dau	Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2169-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:45:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



February 23, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SUPPORT and RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS for HB 2169 HD1**

*Appropriates \$25,000 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui County. (Hearing on February 23, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 308)*

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda. My professional training is in public health and community-based research, with the majority of my experience relating to mental/behavioral health, including suicide prevention. I am also the current Statewide Chair of the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce (PSHTF), Board Member for the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), and a certified trainer in the "SafeTALK" and "Connect" suicide prevention curricula.

As you know, one person dies by suicide every two days in Hawai'i. In addition, the immense stigma around mental health and suicidality increases the challenge that faces us when encouraging people to seek help when needed. In particular, our rural and neighbor island communities have consistently experienced higher rates of suicide deaths and attempts. While there are many factors that may contribute to this disparity, important considerations include the lack of prevention programs and intervention/crisis services, as well as longer travel distances to access the services that are available.

The Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce (PSHTF) is a long-standing community-based group which has 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. Our collaborative now includes county-specific branches which identify and address community-specific needs.

***I am in strong support of HB 2169 HD1, though request the Committee consider distributing the proposed funding among all neighbor island counties. While Maui County's suicide rates are higher than those on O'ahu, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Counties also face elevated rates as well.***

Thank you again, Representative Luke, Representative Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance. Please do know how heartfelt our gratitude really is. Please do not hesitate to contact me (junesugi88@gmail.com, or 808-291-9930), should you have further questions or concerns.

Most Sincerely,  
Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, DrPH