



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2169
RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing Date: 02/08/18 9:00am Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** H.B. 2169 requests \$25,000 of general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
2 youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county. The
3 Department defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request for appropriations and personnel
4 priorities.

5 **Department Testimony: The Department of Health supports the intent of H.B. 2169.**
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. Rates are significantly higher for Hawaii and Maui county youth. If nonfatal attempts
14 are also considered in addition to suicide deaths, Hawaii and Kauai County youth had
15 significantly higher rates compared to youths from either Honolulu or Maui Counties. There was
16 no significant difference in the rates between Honolulu and Maui County youth.

17 DOH continues to collaborate with youth serving organizations to tailor prevention strategies to
18 the needs of youth. Given the higher rates of youth suicide in the Neighbor Island counties of
19 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, the DOH respectfully recommends consideration of the need for youth
20 suicide prevention and early intervention resources for all three counties.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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



Online Submittal

DATE: February 6, 2018

[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH](#)

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director – Hawaii Catholic Conference

POSITION: Strong Support for HB 2169, Youth Suicide Prevention
Strong Support for HB 2278, Relating to Health

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. Many people at risk for suicide do not seek help so 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. 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.

To that end, we are in strong support of **both HB 2169** that will appropriate \$25,000 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county and **HB 2278** which establishes a suicide prevention task force to develop a strategic plan to reduce suicide in Hawaii by 25% by 2025.

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.

Both of these measures will send a message that people suffering from depression deserve a chance to live. 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: Thursday, February 8, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m..

Conference Room #329

DATE: February 6, 2018

TO: [COMMITTEE ON HEALTH](#)
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Strong Support for HB 2169 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening life, family and religious freedom in Hawaii. This year we celebrate 20 years of serving the faith-based community! We support this bill that would appropriate \$25,000 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county.

We are committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, and everything that comes between. Many people in our community are concerned about suicide, because it affects the vulnerable people in our community, especially our youth and elderly. Just in the past few months, pastors have had to deal with the loss of someone in their community because of suicide.

In 2014, 9.4 million adults aged 18 or older thought seriously about trying to take their own lives. According to the CDC, in the past 12 months, there were 2.7 million who made suicide plans and 1.1 million who made a nonfatal suicide attempt. These studies show that young adults aged 18 to 25 were more likely than adults in other age groups to have serious thoughts of suicide, to have made suicide plans, or to have attempted suicide.¹ This is heartbreaking and something we absolutely need to change!

Experts rightly point out that suicidal behaviors, for people of any age, 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. And the good news, is that it is fixable by awareness and treatment.

Making an appropriation of \$25,000 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county makes a strong statement on something with which the community can agree.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FRR2-2014/NSDUH-DR-FRR2-2014.htm> (accessed 02/24/17)

HB-2169

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:57:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Honolulu County Republican Party	Comments	No

Comments:

Suicide is a serious public health problem that affects many young people. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, and results in approximately 4,600 lives lost each year. However, there are more than enough free resources that are available for early intervention, prevention, and education.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2169 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hearing: February 8, 2018, 9:00 am, CR 329

Thank you for hearing **HB 2169, which appropriates \$25,000 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui County.** Mental Health America of Hawaii supports HB 2169. This appropriation will help to bring community education and awareness to the important and tragic issue of youth suicide as well as the help and hope available through suicide prevention.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. One of our signature services is a training for middle and high school age youth on Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention that we developed here in Hawaii called "Ho'olohe Pono." This training has been evaluated to show that over 80% of participants increase their knowledge of bullying, suicide, helpful resources, and how they can assist someone in need.

In Hawai'i, we unfortunately have very high rates of suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal ideation amongst various age groups. Shockingly, our state's most recent Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (part of a national survey) results show that one in four middle age youth in Hawaii self-report suicidal ideation, one in six has made a suicide plan, and one in eight have made a suicide attempt.¹ On Maui, the rates of suicidal thoughts have risen among youth in recent years and there have been recent youth suicides that shocked the community and highlighted the need for prevention services.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 2169.** Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, Hawaii, 2015

HB-2169

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:31:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate	Support	No

Comments:

February 6, 2018

**Committee on Health and Human Services
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Committee Members:
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Lei R. Learnmont
Rep. Andria Tupola**

Regarding: HB2169 Appropriates \$25,000 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county

Dear members, another good bill that I strongly support.

The suicide problems among our young is heart breaking, hopefully this will help to guide them into a more positive mind place and future.

I also hope that this program will be expanded to all counties, on all islands.

Again, thank you for your time and let's pass this bill.

**Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura
Mililani, HI**

HB-2169

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:02:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther McDaniel		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and Thank you to Representative Mizuno and Representative Kobayashi and the Committee on Health and Human Services for receiving this testimony.

I support House Bill 2169 in providing funds to support early intervention and prevention of youth suicide.

Our youth need our support and they need to know that they are our priority. \$25,000 towards suicide prevention initiatives is a start.

Mahalo,

Esther McDaniel

LATE

AS IS

HB-2169

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 3:17:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda		Support	Yes

Comments:

Please see the attachment. Thank you.

HB-2169

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:54:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois J Young	Ms.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Pleased pass this much needed bill.

thank you, Lois