



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/14/2018
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education
House Health and Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2262 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires two hours of annual in-service training in suicide prevention for all teachers, principals, and school counselors.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2262, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Board of Education approved budget. The Department supports efforts to disseminate information to its employees that support the health and welfare of all students.

Should the Committee move the bill forward, the Department recommends the following language change in the bill:

Page 3, Line #14: "S302A - Suicide prevention; ~~in-service training~~ resources. The"

Page 3, Line #15: "department ~~shall require that in-service training include at~~ shall offer information on resources"

Page 3, Line #16: "~~least two hours of~~ on suicide prevention education for all"

Page 3, line #17: "~~teachers, principals, and school counselors~~ employees and principals each school year."

Page 3, Line #18: "This education may be accomplished through the provision and"

Page 3, Line #19: "~~completion~~ availability of suicide prevention materials approved by the"

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2262.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan

which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 1:54:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 1:31:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:02:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mericia Palma Elmore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:10:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 5:36:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anne marie jacintho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 5:52:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support this bill

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:51:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:22:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Russo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support House Bill 2262. I am a teacher at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. As advisor of Hawaii's first Green Ribbon Club, a mental health advocacy organization, my students and I work towards destigmatizing mental illness among the student population. The push to destigmatize has been well-received on campus but more needs to be done.

The extent of teacher training on keeping students safe are a few beginning-of-the-year safety videos covering just some of the dangers students may face under our care. Virtually all training is on curriculum and instruction. Training in education is important but it must be balanced with training on caring for the WHOLE child. Teachers and administrators should be knowledgeable on how to manage situations that stray from the scope of curriculum and instruction.

Teachers are the first line of defense in the education system and an engaged, caring, and knowledgeable educator can make all the difference in the overall well-being of our students. With that said, it is crucial that those working with youth have knowledge and training on youth mental health. This is why I strongly support HB 2622.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Russo

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:44:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeny Bissell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the former chair of the Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force, I strongly support this measure.

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 11:44:09 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Ann Kaku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 2262 Relating to Suicide Prevention Training
DATE: February 14, 2018
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education and Committee on Health and Human Services
ROOM: Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT OF THE INTENT of HB 2262**, which requires all teachers, principals, and school counselors to complete two hours of suicide prevention and education training.

The Commission appreciates the Legislature’s efforts in looking out for the well-being of the children that attend our public schools and public charter schools. The Commission requests the committees clarify whether this measure is intended to include public charter school teachers, principals, and staff. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with this committee, the DOE, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LATE



Hawai'i Psychological Association
For a Healthy Hawai'i

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Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Email: hpaexec@gmail.com
Phone: (808) 521-8995

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

and

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2262
February 14, 2018, 2:00 pm, Room 309

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) endorses House Bill 2262, which requires two hours of annual in-service training in suicide prevention for all teachers, principals, and school counselors.

The suicide rate among youth has been rising, and historically exceeds that of the general population. At risk youth often exhibit signs of intention for self-harm, which can be missed or overlooked by untrained adults. Educators and school staff interact daily with the student population, making them potential first responders for identifying suicide risk among youth.

HPA supports HB 2262, which protects the welfare of young people enrolled in school.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, Ph.D.
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee



February 14, 2018

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT AND COMMENTS FOR HB 2262 (relating to suicide prevention training)

Requires two hours of annual in-service training in suicide prevention for all teachers, principals, and school counselors. (Hearing on February 14, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room 309)

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Education;
Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

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 may 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, Hawai'i's youth have self-reported higher frequencies of making suicide plans and attempting suicide, compared to the national average (see <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/results.htm>).

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.

Members include the Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services, and also community agencies such as Mental Health America of Hawai'i. Of note, the PSHTF recently completed a Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention in Hawai'i, which was requested by the Legislature and presented during an informational briefing in December 2017 (link to official document: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=DC&billnumber=175).

We are in strong support of HB 2262, which would ensure that employees of the Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE) receive regular suicide prevention training. Within our Strategic Plan, education and training are key strategies, and specifically, professionals in our education systems were identified as the highest priority group for initiation of regular training. This specific priority was also affirmed by members of our Youth Leadership Council for Suicide Prevention. *In other words, our youth are voicing the importance of suicide prevention training for the adults they encounter within the school system.*

Finally, I would like to provide two comments:

- 1) There are multiple evidence-based training curricula already being implemented in Hawai'i, including several within the DOE (e.g., Kognito, Youth Mental Health First Aid). The PSHTF and our partners are happy to continue collaborating with the DOE on any efforts to increase community capacity in suicide prevention.
- 2) We encourage preserving HB 2262 as a bill for "training requirements," particularly for key employees such as counselors, teachers, and administrators, as opposed to language alterations such as "awareness of suicide prevention" or "exposure to suicide prevention resources." While it is certainly important for everyone to have some basic suicide prevention awareness, participation in an evidence-based training will allow for important discussions and hands-on experiences that are particularly important for suicide prevention.

Thank you again, Representative Woodson, Representative Kong, Representative Mizuno, Representative Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committees on Education and Health & Human Services. 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

LATE

HB-2262

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 8:37:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Dau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition, we support HB2262. We believe the importance of suicide prevention, including the requirement for professionals working with and around children should be properly educated on the risks and prevention of suicide. Requiring teachers, principals and school councelors to complete suicide prevention and education training is a very much needed in our schools.

Thank you,

Lisa Dau, RN
Injury Prevention Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition