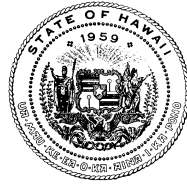


# SB226

Measure Title:	RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.
Report Title:	Suicide Early Intervention; Prevention; Education; Department of Health; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.
Companion:	<a href="#">HB330</a>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	KOUCHI



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0226  
Suicide Early Intervention: Prevention: Education: Department of Health:  
Appropriation**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: 02/06/2019 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** SB 0266 requests funding for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 for  
2 youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education programs in the County of Kauai and  
3 the County of Hawaii. The Department of Health defers to the priorities set forth in the  
4 Governor's Executive Biennium Budget request.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB 0266.

6 Between 2013 - 2017, there were 153 suicides among all residents aged 15 to 24 years, making  
7 suicide the leading cause of injury related deaths for this age group. For every child age 15 to 24  
8 who dies from suicide in Hawaii, there are an estimated 57 more youth per year who are  
9 hospitalized, and another 181 youth per year who are treated in emergency departments (ED) for  
10 nonfatal self- inflicted injury.

11 Youth suicide rates are significantly higher for all Neighbor Islands in comparison to the City  
12 and County of Honolulu. From 2012 to 2016, the overall age adjusted rate for youth suicide on  
13 Oahu was 66 suicides per 100,000. In Kauai County, the rate was 92 per 100,000, in Hawaii  
14 County 117 per 100,000, and in Maui County 86 per 100,000.

15 **Offered Amendments:** Given the higher rates of youth suicide in the Neighbor Island counties  
16 of Kauai, Hawaii and Maui, the DOH respectfully recommends consideration of need for youth  
17 suicide prevention and early intervention resources for all three counties. This would include  
18 continuation of FY 18 resources (\$25,000) for Maui County.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify



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

**Date:** 02/06/2019

**Time:** 09:30 AM

**Location:** 229

**Committee:** Senate Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0226 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention,  
and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 226.

The Department recognizes a need for increased interventions to address the higher rates of suicide among youth on the Neighbor Islands in comparison to Honolulu County. This bill would help to address and prevent youth suicide in Kauai and Hawaii Counties. In alignment with the Department of Health's requested amendment, the Department similarly requests that Maui County also be included in this bill to sustain and fully implement plans for youth suicide prevention projects in that county.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 226.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 9:30 AM  
Conference Room 229

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 226  
Relating to Suicide Prevention**

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My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

**I write in support of SB 226** which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

A teen in Hawai'i is nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide as a teen elsewhere in the United States, with 2,280 reporting having attempted suicide here in 2007, according to a Centers for Disease Control survey in Hawaii's schools. This data has been confirmed by the Department of Health which found that Hawai'i has the highest attempted suicide rate in the country for youth ages 10 to 24. For every suicide death in the islands, there are 25 attempted suicides. The neighbor islands have a higher suicide attempt rate among the youth than Oahu. While suicide or suicide attempt is troubling at any age, youth suicide has unique challenges.

Funding for youth-focused outreach programs through early intervention, prevention, and education would bring community awareness to the problem of youth suicide. This effort would stem the tide of the alarming frequency of youth suicide attempts and help our youths in leading less troubled lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 226 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**Hearing: February 6, 2019, 9:30 am, CR 229**

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 226**, which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawai'i counties.

Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH) is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 77 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. We support youth mental health in Hawaii through our Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention Program and through our advocacy work. 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 23.2% of middle age youth in Hawaii self-report suicidal ideation, 16.3% has made a suicide plan, and 12.4% have made a suicide attempt.<sup>1</sup> Suicide-related behavior has a serious and profound impact on communities that can be reduced with education, awareness, and appropriate mental health treatment services.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of SB 226**. Please contact me at [trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org) or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, Hawaii, 2017

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:06:30 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DeborahGoebert	Testifying for Injury Prevention Advisory Committee	Support	No

## Comments:

Suicide is the leading cause of death among youth in Hawaii. Rates are particularly high in our more remote communities like our neighbor islands. Several evidence-informed, culturally-aligned programs have been shown to be effective in reducing suicide deaths and attempts. However funds are needed to implement and sustaining these programs. SB226 is an important step to address the gap between need and resources.

# 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

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

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

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

February 1, 2019

Senator Roslyn Baker, Chair

And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 226 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 226 Relating to Suicide Prevention.

Suicide prevention was one of the top priorities that youth who attended the Children and Youth Summit last October felt the Hawaii Legislature needs to address.

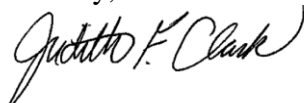
Nearly a quarter of Hawaii's middle school students and sixteen percent (16%) of Hawaii high school students seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. Twelve percent (12%) of middle school students and ten percent (10%) of high school students have made a suicide attempt according to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Kauai and Hawaii island residents have survived serious natural disasters in the past year, including flooding, hurricanes, and a volcanic eruption. Many are experiencing post-traumatic stress that can lead to suicidal thoughts and actions, making those areas a priority for mental health and suicide prevention services.

Early intervention, education, and prevention efforts can save lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:49:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:





Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Senate Bill 226  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) **supports SB226 Relating to Suicide Prevention**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Health for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

According to [hawaiihealthmatters.org](http://hawaiihealthmatters.org)<sup>1</sup>, in 2017 Kauai county had 3.4 percent and Hawaii county had 3.5 percent of its teens attempt suicide.

Relative to Oahu, Kauai and Hawaii Island have been afforded grossly inadequate resources to treat minors experiencing mental health issues, with no residential facilities available that accept MedQuest. This is especially troubling when we know the rate of suicide is much greater in these two counties. To the extent this disproportionate rate is due to an imbalance in funding, it is imperative for the Legislature to take immediate action. It is not only a matter of equity or fairness, it is a matter life and death.

On June 8, 2018, in a HawaiiNewsNow story<sup>2</sup>, Trisha Kajimura, Mental Health America of Hawai'i Executive Director, said this, about the suicide statistics in Hawaii.

"What's also known about neighbor islands is the difficulty in accessing mental health care, as well as other types of medical care. So, when you put those things together, it can be difficult to find help even when you want it."

For years, behavioral health concerns have been stigmatized, which forces these conversations into the shadows. The shadows are where hopelessness blooms and death results.

Creating access for behavioral health services to every person living in Hawaii is a priority for the DPH.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

1. <http://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2500&localeId=601>
2. <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/38377686/cdc-suicide-rates-in-hawaii-on-the-rise/>



ONLINE SUBMITTAL  
Submitted: February 1, 2019

**HEARING:** February 6, 2019 9:30 a.m. in Room #229

**TO:** Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health  
Sen Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**RE:** **Strong Support for SB 226 to 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. We support this bill that provides necessary funding for youth suicide early prevention, intervention and education.

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.

In Hawaii, suicide was the most common cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2010 and 2014, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries and experts point out that one person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. This is heartbreaking and something we absolutely need to change! Several of our pastors have dealt with this very issue over the past few months.

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.

If this bill is passed with the appropriate funds necessary, Kauai and Hawaii County youth will have resources that may very well save their life. Protecting these precious lives are an outcome that is one upon which everyone in the community will agree. Funding for these types of services, we hope, will also be extended to each of the other islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

**LATE**

Testimony in Support of SB 226, Relating to Suicide Prevention  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
9:30AM  
Conference Room 229

Aloha! My name is Leonard Licina and I serve as the CEO of Sutter Health Kahi Mohala. We are in strong support of SB 226, relating to suicide prevention, which appropriates funds for youth suicide prevention in Kauai and Hawaii counties. According to the state Department of Health, residents of Kauai and Hawaii counties had significantly higher rates of both fatal and nonfatal self-inflicted injuries compared to residents of Honolulu County. We observe on a daily basis the significant mental health service needs, particularly for children and adolescents across the state and believe that this measure is an important step toward addressing those needs. We strongly support the efforts of the legislature to support youth suicide prevention.

Sutter Health Kahi Mohala is Hawaii's only not-for-profit psychiatric hospital with a focus on children and adolescents. Since 1983, Kahi Mohala has provided treatment to people in need through innovative, quality and effective behavioral health services. We have observed the significant mental health services needs across the state and believe that this measure is an important step toward addressing those needs.

We respectfully ask that you pass this measure.



Leonard Licina  
Chief Executive Officer

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:26:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Duley	Testifying for Hawaii Island Prevent Suicide Task Force.	Support	No

Comments:

Suicide is a heart wrenching problem that affects our islands and especially our youth.

On average 2 people die from suicide in Hawaii every day (AFSP), and is the leading cause of death for 15-44 year olds (CDC 2016). Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander youth are at higher risk for suicide compared with other ethnic groups ( Wong et. Al 2012). Hawaii Island and Kauai have the highest rates of suicide in the state, which is due to multiple factors including being predominantly rural communities with limited infrastructure and limited resources. Suicide can be preventable when enough people in the community have the knowledge and skills to help prevent it.

I have been involved with the Hawaii Island Prevent Suicide Task Force for the past 6 years, with my primary goal being to increase awareness about suicide, reducing stigma about mental health and training people to recognize the warning signs of suicide and referring them to the appropriate resources. Having the skills and knowledge about suicide saves lives. These are skills that I have used in my personal and in my professional life.

On behalf of Hawaii Island Preven Suicide Task Force, I humbly ask that you say “Yes” to SB 226 to provide funding for youth suicide prevention for both Hawaii Island and Kauai. Supporting suicide prevention for youth will help provide education, skill building and strategies for coping with challenging circumstances as well as increasing the much needed support and resources that are presently lacking on our islands. Your decision to say “Yes” to SB 226 will save many of Hawaii’s young people’s lives.

Sincerely,

Yolisa Duley

(Chair, Hawaii Island Prevent Suicide Task Force).



**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:07:05 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brent Oto	Testifying for U.S. Army	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 226, for funding Kauai and Hawaii islands in Youth Suicide Prevention initiatives.

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:42:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As a teacher in a high school, I know too many of our young people seriously consider suicide. We need to do all we can. This bill is only a start.



**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:54:58 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB226. I attended the informational briefing by the HCR66 Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce to the State Legislature on 12/8/2017. It was videotaped and should be available for anyone to view.

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2018/hearingnotices/HEARING\\_HHS-CPH-HMS\\_12-08-17\\_INFO\\_.HTM?fbclid=IwAR3p7UX8Yriv7SeXLiv-jJ-p7qFRkBl9XaUI9LfvocPG6C-UTfgXzn1Y7A](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2018/hearingnotices/HEARING_HHS-CPH-HMS_12-08-17_INFO_.HTM?fbclid=IwAR3p7UX8Yriv7SeXLiv-jJ-p7qFRkBl9XaUI9LfvocPG6C-UTfgXzn1Y7A)

It was shocking and disheartening to hear about the dismal rates of suicide and attempted suicide for Hawaii - the leading cause of fatal injury death in our state.

Worst rates BY FAR were reported to be on Hawaii Island where juveniles who attempt suicide must be sent off island, away from their families, as there are no beds on island. FINALLY, how much was it reported that the State allocate for Suicide Prevention outreach?.....\$100,000 per year.....FOR THE ENTIRE STATE!

Please pass this bill and please consider expanding it!

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:34:09 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arnold Kotler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:58:03 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johanna Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a youth crisis counselor on the Big Island, I witness firsthand how suicide affects generations of families here in Hawaii. One of the most common reasons minors state for considering and attempting suicide is that a loved one has completed a suicide. It has a ripple effect on those close to the deceased. Suicide rates are rising in Hawaii and throughout the country and we know that early interventions work to decrease these rates. Decreasing suicide also has a ripple effect which is positive for both the families as well as the community. Please vote YES on funding suicide prevention for Hawaii and Kauai Counties.

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:10:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Luana Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support!

**SB-226**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:16:27 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support