

SB383 SD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.
Report Title:	BOE; Schools; Youth Suicide Prevention
Description:	Requires the Board of Education to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools. (SD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	EDU/HMS, CPH/WAM
Introducer(s):	DELA CRUZ, S. CHANG, KANUHA, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, K. Kahele, Wakai

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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 383 SD1 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION
Hearing: February 25, 2019, 11:00 am, CR 211

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 383 SD1**, which amends Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding a new section to part III, subpart F, which establishes a Youth suicide awareness and prevention protocol that includes training for faculty and staff.

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. Since 2008 we have provided this training to thousands of Department of Education middle and high school students and we support a system-wide Youth suicide awareness and prevention protocol.

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.¹ Suicide-related behavior has a serious and profound impact on communities that can be reduced with education, awareness, and appropriate mental health treatment services.

What we suggest is that the protocol as detailed in the bill should also include training for the students because they are often the front line of detection when a classmate is going through emotional turmoil that can lead to suicide-related behavior. This training should include information on available resources and when and how to ask an adult for help when needed. In preparing to help each other, students will also be able better recognize their own needs for mental health help and know where to find it.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of SB 383 SD1**. 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, 2017



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

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

Monday, February 25, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

Senate Bill 383, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Dear Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

The Board of Education ("Board") supports the intent of SB 383 SD1 but has comments. SB 383 SD1 would require the Board to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools.

One of the Board's strategic priorities for the 2018-2019 school year relates to safe learning environments that support students' well-being, which seeks to ensure that the appropriate policies, structures, and resources are in place so learning environments that support all students' emotional and physical well-being can be cultivated.

The Board acknowledges that youth suicide is connected to bullying, harassment, and discrimination in schools, and the Board fully supports the intent of initiatives that recognize the importance of addressing these issues.

However, it is difficult for the Board to support proposed legislation that creates additional duties and responsibilities for the Board and the Department of Education ("Department") without appropriating adequate, commensurate resources to accomplish such duties and responsibilities. In its current form, this measure creates substantially more work for the Board and Department without any funding to accomplish their new responsibilities.

In addition, the Board believes the responsibility to implement programs should lie with the Department and its administratively attached agencies, as the Board's fundamental purpose is to create educational policy, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

Therefore, should the Committees decide to pass this measure, the Board requests that the Committees amend it to place the responsibility to develop and implement a youth

suicide awareness and prevention training program and a model risk referral protocol with the Department or its administratively attached agencies, as appropriate, and to include an appropriation to fund the development and implementation.

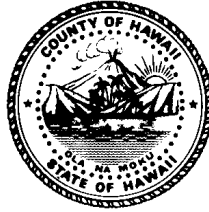
The Board's position and comments on this measure are in regards to matters of public policy only, and the Board defers to the Department on operational and implementation matters for the public education system. The Board also defers to the State Public Charter School Commission on operational and implementation matters as they relate to charter schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne
Chairperson, Board of Education
Chairperson, 2019 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 21, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 383, SD1 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 383, SD1, dealing with youth suicide prevention.

I am not knowledgeable enough, nor do I have the expertise, to comment on the specific detailed approach to suicide prevention laid out in this bill. However, having done some minimal research to warrant supporting SB 226, SD1 (funding for suicide prevention on Kauai, Maui, and Hawai'i by the Department of Health), I feel comfortable urging this Legislature to recruit the Department of Education in the prevention effort.

Whether or not you want to mandate the specific provisions of SB 383, SD1, or choose to pass a more generic bill, I leave to your discretion. In either case, I hope you keep the concept alive for further discussion, and perhaps explicitly recognize that additional funding may be necessary if your mandate is to be properly carried out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-383-SD-1

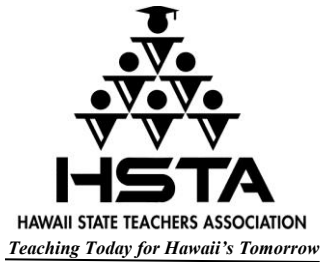
Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:39:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Yurie Takishima-Lacasa	Testifying for Hawai'i Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS AND THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND HEALTH

RE: SB 383, SD1 - RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 383, SD1** relating to youth suicide prevention.

SB 383, SD1 would require the Board of Education to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools.

Schools are, perhaps, the main social institution outside of the family in which children have constant contact with adults and their peers. It is an optimal place, then, to identify youth at risk of committing suicide or even just considering it, but only if teachers know the signs to look for.

Suicide is the second cause of death among youth between the ages of 15 – 24. Studies have shown that 1 in every 15 high schools students attempted suicide every year. For every youth death by suicide there are anywhere between 100 – 200 other youths attempting suicide. Youth that are involved with child welfare and the juvenile justice system and/or are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender; American Indian/Alaska Native/Hawaiian; and dependents of military service members incidents of suicide are even higher than that of their peers.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association appreciates that this training will be offered to all department school personnel who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade twelve.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes we must do everything we can to end suicide so we ask that your committee to **support SB383, SD1**.

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:10:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Support	No

Comments:

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

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 21, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 383 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.

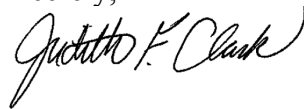
Nearly a quarter of Hawaii's middle school students and sixteen percent (16%) of Hawaii high school students seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. Twelve percent (12%) of middle school students and ten percent (10%) of high school students have made a suicide attempt according to the 2017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



February 20, 2019

Senate's Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health & Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Monday, February 25, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 383 SD 1** – RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 383 Senate Draft 1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 383 SD 1 would require the Board of Education to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools.

Hawaii's suicide rates are on the rise according to the newest study from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. It is imperative that we as a society do everything in our power to halt this trend and in fact reverse it. SB 383 is a great first step.

The LGBT Caucus of the DPH fully supports SB 383 SD 1 as suicide rates are substantially higher for LGBTQIA youth than that for their straight and/or cisgender peers. LGB youth seriously contemplate suicide 3 times more and almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide than their straight peers. Transgender youth's seriously contemplate suicide and attempt rate is even higher. There is little to no data for QIA youth.

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii asks that you support SB 383 SD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair



TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: February 25, 2019; 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 SD 1 – RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

We ask you to support SB 383 which would require the Board of Education to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools. As a provider of youth services in Hawaii, we support this bill which puts in place education and prevention programs and protocols that address some of the critical issues facing our youth today.

Schools are places of learning and tremendous resources in our communities. Our young children spend most of their time during the week in school. While we understand that there are many things that schools much teach on a daily basis, we feel that there is also a growing need to address our youth's social, emotional and mental health needs.

- Suicide awareness and prevention was a top priority voiced by Hawaii's youth at the Hawaii Children's and Youth Summit held at the Capitol last year.
- Suicide rates in Hawaii have increased nearly 20% since 1999 with an annual average of about 170 deaths.
- In Hawaii, 23% of middle schoolers and 16% of high schoolers have seriously considered suicide in the past year according to the *Youth Risk Behavioral Survey*.
- Nationally, nearly 45,000 lives were lost to suicide in 2016 according to CDC.

While most of Hawaii's suicides happen to those ages 19 and older, it is imperative that we put in place preventative measures that connect youth with resources BEFORE it's too late. Suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in our schools can only help. If nothing else, it raises the awareness of caring for one's mental health and can help to

reduce the negative stigma associated with mental health related issues. It will allow for open conversations about the importance of one's whole health, create safe opportunities for youth to reach out for help when they need and enable students, staff and schools to be equipped with connecting our youth to appropriate supportive resources.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 383 SD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:31:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:19:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB 383.

Please support youth suicide prevention programs.

Mahalo,

Esther McDaniel

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:10:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cate Waidyatileka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The rate of suicide is rising. Anything we can do to raise awareness that suicide can be prevented is important and valuable. Raising awareness helps de-stigmatize mental health issues including suicide. Let's do it! Thank you!

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:02:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a teacherr, I have had a number of students discuss suicide with me. One did it. It is one too many. We need to do all we can.

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 2:56:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is not just about a "program". It's about setting environments in schools where people feel safe. I recently heard from students who graduated recently about their experiences in local high schools. Sometimes the issues were with the educators who are supposed to protect and help them. Educator bias and prejudice especially for the LBGQT , people of color is extremely prevalent in the DOE. Students did not feel safe reporting due to possible backlash. SO, yes, programs are important but taking back our schools. Creating places where people talk and don't just take standardized tests and sit on a computer is important as well. There are no easy solutions but "programs" are not the answer.. but a good start.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

LATE

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill no. 383 SD1, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Hearing:

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019

Time: 11:00am

Place: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Senators,

My name is Chanella Asuncion, I was born and raised on Kauai, and currently a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am working on obtaining my Bachelor's degree in Social Work. As there has been a lot of discussions around suicide it is critical to know that in Hawaii many families have been affected by the loss of someone through suicide. Having the impacts of suicide it affects the whole community and felt drastically throughout the state of Hawaii.

From the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, it states that suicide is the most common causes of fatal injuries in Hawaii amongst different age groups. While there are many factors to be considered on reasons why suicide may happen it can consist of mental health, bullying in school, depression and more. So being aware and educated on the subject can help with the decreasing of incidents amongst our community and families.

It is extremely important that Bill no. 383 SD1 is supported while in the educational system. People who are in close relations to our children like teachers and personnel it is necessary to have prevention done for your children's safety. I am a strong believer that by educating having an awareness to help them prevent and decrease the rate of suicide in Hawaii is a start to making a difference for our generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Please vote Yes!

Mahalo,

Chanella Asuncion

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:11:33 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracey Clay-Whitehurst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:45:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Quentin Whitehurst	Individual	Support	No

Comments: