



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

Date: 02/21/2019
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0226, SD1 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai, Hawaii, and Maui counties. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 226 SD1.

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, Hawaii, and Maui Counties, and sustain and fully implement plans for youth suicide prevention projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 226 SD1.

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.

SB-226-SD-1

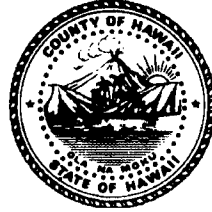
Submitted on: 2/19/2019 11:38:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 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:

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 20, 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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Kieth-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 226, SD1 Relating to Suicide Prevention

SB 226 sent me to Google to better understand the need for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education programs. The statistics are enough to explain the importance of this bill.

Suicide deaths in Hawai'i County, according to our Hawai'i State Department of Health, average 20.4 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of about 13 deaths per 100,000. When it comes to youth age 15-19, the number is even higher—26.4 per 100,000; and for young adults aged 20-24, higher still—37.9 per 100,000.

Every one of these deaths is preventable, and if we have the expertise to offer programs that can reach these young people and suggest different paths forward for them, it seems we owe it to them, and to their families, friends, and loved ones, to make the effort.

I hope you will act favorably on SB 226, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



SB226 SD1
RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION
Ke Kōmike Ki'ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai

Pepeluali 21, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Lumi 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to **COMMENT** on SB226 SD1, which seeks to prevent suicide through support of early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives seeking to address youth suicide in Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui counties, and focusing on youth and young adults between the ages of ten and twenty-four.

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies which reduce health inequities faced by Native Hawaiians. Most recently, OHA spearheaded the State effort to codify “social determinants of health” through Act 155 (Reg. Sess. 2014) and require state agencies to take a holistic and systemic approach to addressing health disparities seen in Native Hawaiian and other communities. Therefore, OHA appreciates the intent of this measure to treat the harms and health issues that drive young people to suicide and reduce the traumatic health impacts of suicide on families and communities.

Alarminglly, **Native Hawaiian youth are twice as likely to have made a suicide attempt in the last year** than their Caucasian peers.¹ 24.1% of Native Hawaiian females in public high schools have seriously considered attempting suicide compared to 18.7% of non-Hawaiian females.² And statewide, the ratio of Native Hawaiian males in the 10th grade who had already attempted suicide (11%) was more than double that of their non-Hawaiian peers (5.2%).³ **Presumably due, in part, to these alarming rates of suicide attempt, Native Hawaiian youth and young adults are 2.3 times more likely to die by suicide than Caucasian youths.**⁴

Suicide rates vary by geographic area, with neighbor island and rural communities seeing higher rates than urban areas. OHA research confirms that Native Hawaiian youth report higher numbers of suicide attempts and suicides in Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui

¹ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING (2018).

² OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING (2018).

³ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, KĀNEHŌ'ĀLANI – TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN MEN (2017).

⁴ OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING (2018).

counties. Therefore, this measure's targeted focus of resources toward those communities whose youth demonstrate the greatest need for support is appropriate.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Submitted: February 19, 2019

HEARING: February 21, 2019 10:00 a.m. in room 211

TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Sen Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Strong Support for SB 226 SD 1 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.

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, Hawaii County and Maui 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

SB-226-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 5:07:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of SB 226 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

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

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 226, SD1
Relating to Suicide Prevention**

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, SD1 which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education initiatives in Kauai, Hawaii and Maui 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.

SB-226-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 11:29:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB 226. Our young people need more resources & support that helps them know we value each of their lives. We are people of ALOHA, the breath of life. Please take this small step to let our youth know that we see them & cherish them. Let them know we see purpose & beauty in their lives.

Please SUPPORT SB 226.

Sincerely,

Esther McDaniel

LATE

SB-226-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:51:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Bergan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha, as a certified suicide prevention trainer on the island of Maui and as a concerned citizen I highly support this bill to allocate monies to the counties mentioned but especially Maui. We need the funds to get trainers out in the community for lowering the youth suicide rates in all of Maui County (including Molokai and Lanai where rates are the highest).

Suicide is the leading cause of death in Hawaii ages 11-65, more than car accidents, drownings and accidental poisonings. We need funding to support the continued trainings of suicide prevention and lower the risk in our community.

Please pass this forward.

Danielle Bergan

LATE

SB-226-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 1:49:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanelle Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 226 SD1, Relating to Suicide Prevention
Thursday, February 21, 2019
10:00AM
Conference Room 211

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 SD1, 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



Papa Ola Lōkahi



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LATE



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COUNCIL for
NATIVE HAWAIIAN
ADVANCEMENT

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Date: Peleluali 21, 2019

Where: Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

Submitted by the listed organizations

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of WAM

RE: **SB 226, SD1, Relating to Suicide Prevention**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! The listed organizations write in **SUPPORT** of SB 226, SD1, which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education initiatives in Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui counties.

As organizations serving Native Hawaiians and supporting communities, we understand Native Hawaiian youths are disproportionately affected with higher rates of suicidality compared with the other major ethnic groups in Hawai'i. Far too often, generational issues such as poverty, domestic abuse, and fewer educational opportunities, lead to a disproportionate number of deaths by suicide and or attempts amongst Native Hawaiians. Those numbers are greater in rural areas such as Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui counties.

Passage of SB 226, SD1, will allow for greater opportunity to develop culturally competent strategies to decrease the risk of suicide, moving the State of Hawai'i one step closer to effectively ending this disturbing trend.

With this testimony, our organizations collectively submit our **SUPPORT** of SB 226, SD1 and urge this Committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-226-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 1:59:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauralee Baoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 226. Suicide early intervention prevention services should be accessible and available for those youth who need it. Appropriating money for these services on Kauai, Hawaii and Maui counties will ensure that our youth are taken care of in the event that they need these valuable services and that their families are supported as well.