

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: brent.oto@us.army.mil
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:44:48 AM

HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brent Oto	U.S. Army	Support	Yes

Comments: On behalf of the U.S. Army - Hawaii Suicide Prevention Program, our organization supports HB 0696 Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month in September.

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



Online Submittal

DATE: February 24, 2017

[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH](#)

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director – Hawaii Catholic Conference

POSITION: Strong Support for HB 696 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. Too many people at risk for suicide do not seek help. 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. This includes either suicides by one's own hand or those made by request to a physician.

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.

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.

We support the designation of the month of September as "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" to increase the public's awareness of suicide prevention education, resources, and support available to individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii.

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: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room #329

DATE: February 24, 2017

TO: [COMMITTEE ON HEALTH](#)
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Strong Support for HB 696 Suicide Prevention Month**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening life, family and religious freedom in Hawaii. We are committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, and everything that comes between. We are very concerned about suicide, because it affects the vulnerable people in our community, especially our youth, elderly and infirm.

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. As the intro to the bill indicates, young adults aged 18 to 25 in 2014 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!

We believe, however, that it is not just the young people who are victims of suicide and depression. Many elderly people and people who are terminal, are also at risk for depression and suicide. The CDC reports that every day in the United States, 17 adults over the age of 65 commit suicide². Even if that number is not as high as youth, it is still not what we want for our kupuna.

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.

Designating the month of September of each year as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month is a step in the right direction because it sends a message that suicide is never a solution. This bill makes a strong statement on something with which the community can agree. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support and to the legislators who put their names on this important bill!

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

² <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicide-datasheet-a.pdf> (accessed 02/24/17)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: trisha@mentalhealthhawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:46:59 PM

HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trisha Kajimura	Mental Health America of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Mental Health America of Hawaii supports the establishment of September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. We are part of the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force and conduct youth suicide and bullying prevention training in the community. As mentioned in the bill, suicide is a problem in Hawaii and we welcome help in bringing attention to it. We will continue to work to engage the community in solutions. Thank you for hearing this bill.

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February 27, 2017

HB696 Hearing: House Health Committee on Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month
Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 10 AM,
Conference Rm 329

To: Della Au Belatti, Chair
Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee Members

From: Pua Kaninau-Santos
Survivor Mom of Kaniela Kaninau
Chair, O`ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce
Steering Committee Member Statewide Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB696, SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH.

Aloha,

My name is Pua Kaninau-Santos, Chair of the O`ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce and survivor mother of Kaniela Kaninau. My son, Kani died by Suicide, April 5, 2003. I am also a family member who has provided support during the crisis and outreach for a grandchild who attempted suicide, most recently. Going to the emergency room, ohana group meet with the psychiatrist, Dr., family debrief, and completion of a safe plan, was much to manage for myself and my family.

I have also been a part of the process of providing suicide first aid intervention time and again for those at risk, suicide debrief with families having lost a love one to suicide, debrief for families going through the aftermath of an attempt (completing a safe plan with a focus on safety for now), facilitate a Hope, Help, and Healing (survivors of a loved one's suicide) grief group, case management/counseling for those struggling in the aftermath, facilitator of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (Suicide First-Aid) and safeTALK (alert helpers), and more.

I know how it is to have been that mom, whose son was at school with the vice-principal and counselor the day he took his life, and they did not know he was in an acute suicidal crisis. I didn't know he was in an acute suicidal crisis, either! It was at that time suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death for Hawai`i youth and I had not a clue this was a critical risk factor for my child. Had zero awareness or skills.

I understand full heartedly the implications, possibilities, importance, and hope HB696 brings in support of Suicide Prevention and Awareness efforts in Hawai`i. Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce urges the passage of HB696.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pua Kaninau-Santos".

Pua Kaninau-Santos
Mother of Kaniela Kaninau – Kalani HS, Class of 2003
O`ahu Prevent Suicide Hawai`i Taskforce - Chair

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February 28, 2017

The Honorable Della Au Belatti
Chair, House Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 402
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HCR 56

Dear Chairwoman Belatti and Members of the Health Committee:

I am writing on behalf of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association to provide the Committee with important information on surrogacy, as it considers whether to conduct a study on surrogacy and gestational carrier arrangements. RESOLVE is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to helping the 1 in 8 women and men in America – more than 28,000 Hawaiians – who are struggling with infertility.

There are a variety of medical advancements that are providing opportunities and hope to infertile families. One of the family building options available is gestational surrogacy, which occurs when a woman is unable to carry a pregnancy to term because of a medical condition, such as heart disease, cancer, lupus, and type 1 diabetes. Some women may not have a uterus or they suffer from recurrent miscarriages. In these circumstances, an embryo can be carried to term by another woman, the gestational carrier, who has no genetic link to the child.

While most states have state requirements for gestational carrier surrogates and intended parents, Hawaii has no laws in place to protect gestational carriers, the intended parents or the babies born from gestational surrogacy.

RESOLVE strongly supports the guidelines recommended by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine that ensure that gestational surrogacy remains a safe option for infertile families. These national standards provide that the carrier not be the genetic mother of the child she is carrying; independent legal representation of all parties is provided; mental health evaluation of all parties is provided; the gestational surrogacy candidate is medically capable of carrying a child to term; reasonable economic compensation to the gestational carrier is ethical; and the intended parents are considered to be the psychosocial parents of any children born by a gestational carrier.

As the Committee considers whether to request a study on surrogacy and gestational carrier agreements by the Department of the Attorney General, please be mindful of the challenges facing infertile Hawaiians seeking to have a child and ensure that access to this important family building option remains available to Hawaii families.

Good statutes exist and RESOLVE is available to work with the Attorney General and lawmakers on legislation that will keep gestational carrier surrogacy available and legal, with protection for the intended parents, gestational carrier, and resulting child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Collura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Collura
President/CEO

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HLTtestimony](#)
Cc: lisashorba@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:37:06 AM

HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Thank you for this hearing. It is vital that suicide be prevented in Hawaii. Please vote yes on HB 696.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: alangarcia2017@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM



HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I submit testimony in strong support of HB696 to designate the Month of September of each year as "Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month." Not many people know this fact, however every two days a "suicide" occurs in Hawaii. Because suicide awareness and prevention is such an important issue, I respectfully ask the Committee on Health to pass this important bill.

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Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM



HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB696 to have the month of September as "Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month." This will allow the opportunity for educational programs to step up their effort of awareness in this month and enhance the ability to hold more workshops on "Suicide Prevention" and education. This will greatly educate many people and families, as well as educators and "train the trainers" to provide proper referral services and clearly identify the signs of a person thinking of "suicide."

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Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:30 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: terrynuiyoshinaga@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM

LATE

HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Life is precious and we need to support prevention measures for people who are having such difficulty to want to end their lives.

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Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sabrinanguyen2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM



HB696

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 28, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: I support HB696, because a bill like this will have a positive impact on educating families about "suicide and suicide prevention." This measure will end up saving lives.

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