

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

**House Committee on Finance**

Friday, March 29, 2019  
2:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

**Senate Bill 383, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education ("Board") appreciates the intent of SB 383 SD2 HD1 but has comments. SB 383 SD2 HD1 would require the Department of Education ("Department") to establish a mandatory youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and model risk referral protocol, based on existing materials created by the Department of Health, for all public schools, including charter schools. The measure would also require the Department and charter schools to provide the training program and risk referral protocol to all school personnel who work directly with students in Department schools and charter schools, respectively.

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 Department and charter schools without appropriating adequate, commensurate resources to accomplish such duties and responsibilities. In its current form, this measure creates substantially more work for the Department and charter schools without any funding to accomplish their new responsibilities. **Therefore, should the Committee decide to pass this measure, the Board requests that the Committee amend it to include an appropriation to fund the development and implementation of the youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and risk referral protocol.**

The Board appreciates the House Committee of Lower and Higher Education's amendments to place the responsibility to implement the program, including its development, with the

Department and its administratively attached agencies rather than the Board. The Board believes this is most appropriate, as the Board's fundamental purpose is to create educational policy, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

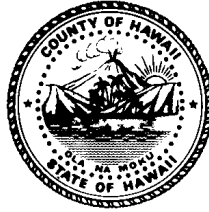
The Board's position and comments on this measure are in regards to matters of public policy only, and the Board defers to the Department on operational and implementation matters for the public education system. The Board also defers to the State Public Charter School Commission and the individual charter schools 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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March 27, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 383, SD2, HD1 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention**

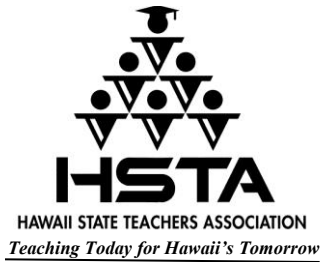
Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 383, SD2, HD1, dealing with youth suicide prevention.

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 HB 330, HD1 (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, SD2, HD1, 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



Corey Rosenlee  
President

Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President

Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE

RE: SB 383, SD2, HD1 - RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

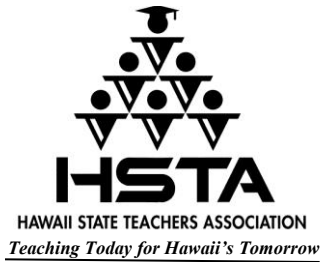
Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 383, SD2, HD1 with suggested amendments relating to youth suicide prevention.

SB 383, SD2, HD1 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. However, the language in this current draft changed to making this “mandatory” training for all personnel annually. We suggest amending the language back to the SB383, SD1, where yes, this training is created, but it is not mandatory training annually. Teachers will seek out this training, it does not need to be mandatory. Also it assumes some teachers have not had the training already, some are certified trainers for suicide awareness, thus we suggest **amending the language by deleting “mandatory” on page 1, line 6**

**"§302A- Youth suicide awareness and prevention protocol.** (a) The board, in collaboration with the department of health, shall develop a ~~mandatory~~ youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and a model risk referral protocol for complex areas and charter schools based on the department of health's existing suicide awareness and prevention curriculum and materials.

**And inserting on page 1, line 6, The training program shall be provided at no cost to those personnel. All department school personnel who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade twelve shall be offered the training on an annual basis.**



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Corey Rosenlee  
President

Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President

Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

**Lastly, amending the language below, on page 2, lines 15-17**

“Each charter school shall ~~provide~~ offer a youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and risk referral protocol to school personnel who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade twelve on an annual basis in accordance with section 302A”

We do realize that 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. This training is vital to have available and encouraged.

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. We just believe this training should be offered, and not added as mandatory requirement onto the enormous amount of training that is already required at the beginning of each school year. Some of our teachers are already certified trainers, this for suicide prevention training, and this fact is not accounted for in this bill.**

The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes we must do everything we can to end suicide so we ask that your committee to **support SB383, SD2, HD1 with suggested amendments.**



**TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance**

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

**DATE/LOCATION: March 29, 2019; 2:30 p.m., Conference Room 308**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 SD 2 HD 1– RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**We ask you to support SB 383 which would require the Board of Education to establish and implement a mandatory 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.

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, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 383 SD 2 HD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Hearing: March 29, 2019, 2:30 pm, CR 308**

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 383 SD2 HD1**, 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.<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.

*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 SD2 HD1**. 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



# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

March 28, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 SD 2 HD 1 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 383 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Youth 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.

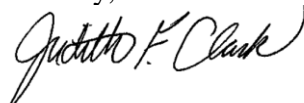
Nearly a quarter of Hawaii's middle school students and sixteen percent (16%) of Hawaii high school students seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. Twelve percent (12%) of middle school students and ten percent (10%) of high school students have made a suicide attempt according to the 2017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

Hawaii residents have survived multiple 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, increasing the need 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-383-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 11:14:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katrina Obleada	Hawaii Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:



March 27, 2019

House's Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, March 29, 2019 – 2:30 p.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 383 SD 2 HD 1 – RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair Mizuno and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 383 Senate Draft 2 House Draft 1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 383 SD 2 HD 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 SD 2 HD 1 is a great first step.

The LGBT Caucus of the DPH fully supports SB 383 SD 2 HD 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 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 2 HD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair

**SB-383-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 6:21:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB383. Youth suicide is not only high on the mainland but also in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei