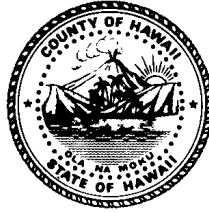


Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 13, 2019

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Dear Chairs Woodson and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Hashem, Perruso and Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 383, SD2 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

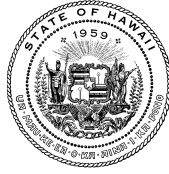
Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 383, SD2, dealing with youth suicide prevention.

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, SD2 (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, 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



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

**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
House Committee on Health**

Thursday, March 14, 2019
2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Senate Bill 383, Senate Draft 2, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Dear Chairs Woodson and Mizuno; Vice Chairs Hashem, Perruso, and Kobayashi; and
Members of the Committees:

The Board of Education ("Board") appreciates the intent of SB 383 SD2 but has comments. SB 383 SD2 would require the Board 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.

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, including the development of 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

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

March 12, 2019

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

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

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

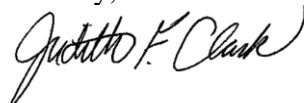
Nearly a quarter of Hawaii's middle school students and sixteen percent (16%) of Hawaii high school students seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. Twelve percent (12%) of middle school students and ten percent (10%) of high school students have made a suicide attempt according to the 2017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



March 12, 2019

House's Committees on Lower & Higher Education and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 383 SD 2 – 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 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 383 SD 2 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 is a great first step.

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

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB383 SD2

To: COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair; Rep. Mark Hashem, Vice Chair; Rep. Amy Perruso, Vice Chair and Committee Members

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair and Committee Members

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) **SUPPORTS SB383 SD2 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

My name is Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator and I represent Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC). KIPC **SUPPORTS** the passage of SB383 SD2, requiring the BOE to establish a mandatory youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and model risk referral protocol, based on existing materials created by the DOH, for all public schools, including charter schools.

Schools are a key setting for suicide prevention. Teachers and other school personnel who interact with students can play an important role in keeping them safe. Maintaining a safe school environment is a mission that school officials must address. The student's mental health can affect how well they perform in school. Suicide can affect the entire school community. The best way to prevent suicide is through prevention programs. Teachers and other school personnel need a comprehensive approach to learning suicide prevention by promoting emotion well-being and connectedness among all students, identifying students who may be at risk for suicide and know how to assist them in getting help, and they need to be prepared when a suicide death occurs. Providing a mandatory youth suicide awareness and prevention training program will help teachers and other personnel address this serious concern on suicide.

Thank you for your time in considering passing SB383 SD2.

Mahalo,

Lisa Dau, RN
Injury Prevention Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Hearing: March 14, 2019, 2:00 pm, CR 309

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 SD1 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

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.

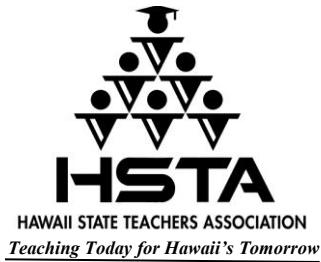
Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH) is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 77 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. We support youth mental health in Hawaii through our Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention Program and through 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



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committees:

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

SB 383, SD2 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 SD2 changed to making this “mandatory” 2 hour 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

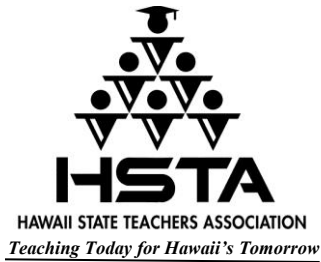
Removing the SD2 language of “mandatory” on page 1, line 6

"§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

Removing the SD 2 language below, on page 2, lines 15-17

All department school personnel who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade twelve shall receive on an annual basis.

And instead use the language from SD1, on page 2 lines 14-16



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Corey Rosenlee
President

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Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

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.

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 onto the enormous amount of training that is already required at the beginning of each school year.

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, with suggested amendments.**

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2019
2:00 pm Conference Room 309
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB383 SD2 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and honorable members:

I SUPPORT SB383 SD2. This bill will 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. According to the Center for Disease Control, suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and, in Hawai'i alone, the suicide rate increased by almost 20% between 1999 and 2016 (<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/suicide/>).

Growing up in Nānākuli, my own *'ohana* was touched by the suicide of a *hanai* brother, and many other families in my community experienced similar heartbreak. Early identification and intervention is a key component in reaching those at risk.

A mandatory training program to equip those in close contact with Hawaii's youth is an important step in fulfilling our society's obligations to protect and nourish future generations. Our youth must learn emotional coping and problem-solving skills, they must have adults they can reach out to who know how to handle complex situations, and our education system needs to prepare its members to provide the highest quality of care. Only by providing a safe and supportive environment born of knowledge and training will we reach at-risk youth and place them on a better path.

I believe that such a policy is a step in the right direction. I believe Hawai'i can continue its leadership role in valuing the life and dignity of Hawaii's youth by passing SB383 SD2.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,



Makana Paris
Papakōlea, O'ahu

SB-383-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 11:18:47 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katrina Obleada	Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA)	Support	No

Comments:

LATE



TO: Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso and Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the House Committee on Health

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

DATE/LOCATION: March 14, 2019; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 SD 2 – 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**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.