

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

Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services

Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

Senate Bill 383, Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Dear Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Kim and Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

The Board of Education ("Board") supports the intent of SB 383 but has comments. SB 383 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 understands 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.

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

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Education
Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION
Hearing: February 11, 2019, 2:45 pm, CR 016

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 383**, 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**. 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



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Submitted: February 8, 2019

HEARING: February 11, 2019 2:45 in room 016

TO: Senate Committee on Education Senate Committee on Human Services
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair Sen. Russell Ruderman, Chair
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Strong Support for SB 383 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 adds a new section in Chapter 302A regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention protocol. Many people in our community are concerned about suicide, because it affects the vulnerable people in our community, especially our youth and elderly. In fact, several of our pastors have dealt with this very issue just within this past year.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide rates have risen nearly 30% since 1999ⁱ. In Hawaii, according to that same report, that rate was 18.3%. In fact, suicide was the most common cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2010 and 2014, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuriesⁱⁱ. This is heartbreaking and something we absolutely need to change!

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.

It is important for Hawaii to establish a comprehensive evidence-based public health approach to prevent suicides long before they occur. Professionals that work with our keiki are an important line of defense in the work to address suicide prevention. 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.

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June 8, 2018

ⁱⁱ Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force Report (2017), Executive Summary

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 9, 2019

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 383 RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

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

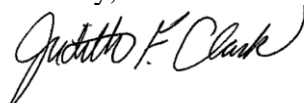
Nearly a quarter of Hawaii's middle school students and sixteen percent (16%) of Hawaii high school students seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. Twelve percent (12%) of middle school students and ten percent (10%) of high school students have made a suicide attempt according to the 2017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

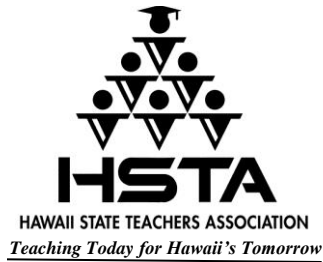
Early intervention, education, and prevention efforts can save lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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 COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION and HUMAN SERVICES

RE: SB 383 - RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

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

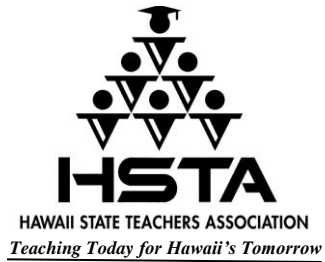
SB 383 would require the Board of Education to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools.

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 is requesting the following two amendments to SB 383;

1) page 2 lines 14-16:



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

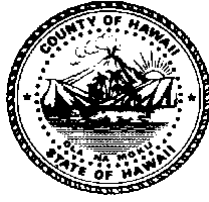
All department school personnel who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade twelve shall ~~receive and complete~~ be offered the training on an annual basis.

2) page 4 lines 17-20:

By September 15 of each year, each complex area shall report to the department on prior school year ~~compliance with the mandatory training requirements and~~ prevention activities ~~required-completed as-described~~ by this section.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes we must do everything we can to end suicide so we ask that your committee to **support** and **amend** SB 383.

County of Hawai'i
Council District 4 -
Lower Puna



Office: (808) 961-8265
Fax: (808) 961-8912
ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiicounty.gov

LATE

ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 4

Chair: Committee on Planning, and Committee on Government Relations & Economic Development
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 10, 2019

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

**RE: Support for SB383
relating to Suicide Youth Prevention**

Aloha, Senators:

According to a 2017 report by the state Department of Health, 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 suicide deaths. There's no question that suicides are on the rise, and we must address this serious and complex public health issue.

A 2018 report by the Prevent Suicide Hawai'i Taskforce to the State Legislature identified a suite of suicide prevention strategies and activities for our State. While I support the work laid out in SB383 to develop and implement a youth suicide awareness and prevention protocol, I humbly ask this body to amend the bill to include language around involving youth to assist with messaging development and delivery in order to ensure the prevention initiative resonates with youth today.

Thank you for making this issue a priority. Please feel free to contact me should you have questions.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
Hawai'i County Council, District 4

LATE

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 8:25:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
andy levin	Testifying for county of hawaii, Mayor's office	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 383, 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 SB226 (funding for suicide prevention on Kauai and Hawaii 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 feel comfortable mandating the specific provisions of SB 383, 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

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 2:01:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:



February 8, 2019

Senate's Committees on Education & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Monday, February 11, 2019 – 2:45 p.m.

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

Aloha Chair Kidani, Chair Ruderman and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 383 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. SB 383 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 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.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:42:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 12:58:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons- HAPI	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 2:12:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maile rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 4:52:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Kay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this very important piece of legislation to help protect young people.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:02:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 10:30:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

[I strongly support SB 383](#). It is important that we do everything in our power to prevent youth suicides. We need awareness and prevention training programs in our public schools and charter schools.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 10:39:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 11:06:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andres Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:57:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:27:08 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha:

I strongly SUPPORT the passing of SB383.

Kamuela Werner, MPH

Native Hawaiian & Wai'anae Resident

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:00:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Within this the State and the DOE should look at the demographics for suicide in our islands and look at school climate and if there are more in some schools than others? From experience, students have told me about educators who make going to school a challenge for LGBT students. They are made uncomfortable in class and schools are not welcoming. It's not just other students, it's admin. and educators as well, sadly.

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 5:58:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-383

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 4:10:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Imai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45 pm
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB383 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Aloha Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Ruseel E. Ruderman, Vice-Chair Karl Rhoads and honorable members:

I **SUPPORT** SB383. 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.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,


Makana Paris
Papakōlea, O'ahu