SB978



STATE OF HAWAII STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543 February 4, 2015

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on Education and The Honorable Josh Green, Chair Senate Committee on Health Twenty-Eighth Legislature State Capitol State of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Kidani, Senator Green, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: SB 978 - Relating to Youth

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SB 978.** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Education (DOE) for anti-bullying and suicide prevention efforts in Hawaii's public schools.

People with DD are most vulnerable to be bullied. Bullying has been labeled as the leading cause of high suicide rates among our youth. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and DOE, Hawaii has the highest rate in the nation of high school students who have made suicide plans.

According to the National School Boards Association, currently, Hawaii does have State laws covering anti-bullying. However, Hawaii does not have a State model policy that provides for a Communication Plan, which includes a plan for notifying students, students' families, and staff, of policies related to bullying, including the consequences for engaging in bullying. Nor does it provide Training and Preventive Education, which includes a provision for school districts to provide training for all school staff, including, but not limited to, teachers, aides, support staff, and school bus drivers, on preventing, identifying, and responding to bullying. Without such a policy to provide guidelines, institutions and agencies are not able to effectively address the issues of bullying.

Hawaii must identify the prevention efforts that will be funded by SB 978. SB 845 and SB 865 address the need for such prevention policies. We respectfully recommend that these three bills be consolidated into one omnibus bill and be the vehicle to move forward during this legislative session.

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani The Honorable Josh Green Page 2 February 4, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of SB 978**.

Sincerely,

Warmen Sog Cabral

Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W. Executive Administrator

Rosie Rome

Rosie Rowe Chair



ALAN M. ARAKAWA MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793 (808) 244-6400 FAX (808) 244-6411

February 04, 2015



TIVOLI S. FAAUMU CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair and Members of the Committee on Education

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair and Members of the Committee on Health The Senate State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill No. 978 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Dear Chairs Kidani and Green, and Members of the Committees:

The Maui Police Department is in support of SB No. 978.

This bill appropriates funds to support anti-bullying and suicide prevention efforts in Hawaii's public schools.

The Maui Police Department is in support of programs for anti-bullying and suicide prevention efforts. In a concerted effort with our community, we hope to be part of the solution to make our schools safe for our children and reach out to children in need for someone to listen and talk to before it is too late.

The Maui Police Department asks for your support for S.B. No. 978.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Chief of Police



February 1, 2015

Chairs Senator Michelle Kidani and Senator Josh Green and Education and Health Committee Members

Re: SB 978 Relating to Youth Hearing on Feb. 4, 2015

Dear Senator Kidani and Green and Members of the Committees:

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 978 to appropriate funds for anti-bullying and suicide prevention in the DOE. We have watched the Board of Education on this issue. They have not been as proactive as we would like in preventing bullying. As youth who are bullied have a harder time with school and life, this is a key issue, not to mention that our teen suicide rates are too high.

This bill takes away one excuse the DOE may have for not being proactive - which is the absence of funds. Passage of this will allow for more monitoring of bullying activities on campuses. Anything we can do to reduce the bullying and suicide rate of our youth is worth the cost

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199 Web site: http://www.hysn.org E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President Judith F. Clark, Executive Director Aloha House American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii Bay Clinic, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu Big Island Substance Abuse Council To: Blueprint for Change Bobby Benson Center Catholic Charities Hawaii Child and Family Service Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii Courage House Hawaii Domestic Violence Action Center EPIC, Inc. Family Programs Hawaii Family Support Hawaii Hale Kipa, Inc. Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc. Hawaii Behavioral Health Hawaii Student Television Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition Hina Mauka Teen Care Hui Malama Learning Center Kaanalike Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project Kids Hurt Too Kokua Kalihi Valley Life Foundation Marimed Foundation Maui Youth and Family Services Palama Settlement P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc. Parents and Children Together (PACT) Planned Parenthood of Hawaii REAL Salvation Army Family Intervention Srvs. Salvation Army Family Treatment Srvs. Sex Abuse Treatment Center Susannah Wesley Community Center The Catalyst Group The Children's Alliance of Hawaii Waikiki Health Center Women Helping Women

YWCA of Kauai

February 2, 2015

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

> Senator Josh Green, Chair And members of the Committee on Health

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 978 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youthserving organizations, supports SB 978 Relating to Youth.

the past 6 years, bullying has been one of the top concerns of the youth who participate in the annual Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol each October.

According to the Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Hawaii has a low rate of youth violence in almost every area except bullying. The number of youth who have stated that they were afraid to go to school or have missed school due to bullying is much higher than the national average.

Children and youth who are victims of bullying are not able to take full advantage of their educational and recreational opportunities. They are unable to concentrate on their studies, may avoid participation in sports and recreation to avoid contact with bullies, and, in extreme cases, find the bullying so intolerable that they choose suicide as the only way to end it.

HYSN believes that that funding should be allocated to support a comprehensive approach to bullying prevention and intervention that includes:

- Bullying prevention education and character education for children and youth designed to promote peace and harmony and positive ways of resolving disputes;
- Education for parents and community members on how to prevent bullying and respond appropriately;



- Training for educators and students on prevention and intervention skills, and alternative means of dispute resolution;
- Law enforcement involvement only when other means fail.

HYSN has conducted bullying and violence prevention training for youth workers and educators in Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands for the past 4 years and is a member of the Anti-Bullying Task Force convened by Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gutto F. Clark

Judith F. Clark, MPH Executive Director

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
То:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	marychristina.hueu@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:44:19 AM
Attachments:	Testimony Supporting-S.B.978.pages.zip

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaleiola	Halau Ku Mana	Comments Only	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

S.B. 978

This bill is about teenage suicide and how we should have a program for ages 15-24 who is thinking of suicide. It also tells how they should have the program because Hawai'i is very high on the suicide incidence list in America. I support this bill because I think that it will really help these teens and young adults who are thinking about suicide. If this bill is passed I personally think that there will be a dramatic change in numbers of suicides. I think that we would also get lower on the suicide incidence list in America.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 978, RELATING TO YOUTH

Senate Committee on Education Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Hon. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health Hon. Josh Green, Chair Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 1:15 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Kidani, Chair Green, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony <u>in support</u> of Senate Bill 978, relating to youth.

In a 2013 Qmark Research poll conducted on behalf of Equality Hawaii Foundation, 57 percent of registered voters said that they have been impacted by bullying. Many of those surveyed indicated having been bullied as youth. In 2012, from the start of the public school year to mid-December, there were 541 reported incidents of bullying, 94 cyberbullying incidents and 1,871 incidents involving harassment, according to statistics reported to the Hawaii State Board of Education. That year, students in the Aiea-Moanalua-Radford complex comprised 9 percent of state enrollment, but 12 percent of reported bullying incidents. Another 11 percent of reported bullying incidents occurred in the Honokaa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena complex, which has 5.8 percent of Hawaii's public school students. Moreover, some districts, like Hilo-Waiakea and Nanakuli-Waianae, reported no incidents of cyberbullying, raising questions about monitoring and compliance. In departmental surveys, 1 in 6 Hawaii high school students say that they have been bullied online or via text messages, while 20 percent reporting being bullied on school property. Nearly one-fourth of Hawaii middle-school students say they have been victims of cyberbullying and 41 percent reporte being bullied at school.

Bullying precipitates depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, loss of interest in enjoyable activities, health complaints, and decreased academic achievement. Bullied students are more likely to have have subpar grade

point averages and standardized test scores, lower levels of class participation, and increased rates of absenteeism and dropping out. Local teenagers turn to suicide as a solution to their problems at a level that has more than doubled over the past five years. According to the national *2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Hawai'i high school students had the seventh highest self-reported prevalence of considering suicide, making a plan to commit suicide, and attempting suicide.

We must do all we can to end the cycle of bullying and self-harm. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify <u>in support</u> of this bill.

Sincerely, Kris Coffield *Executive Director* IMUAlliance

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	<u>cwaidyat@iolani.org</u>
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Monday, February 02, 2015 10:23:52 AM

Submitted on: 2/2/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cate Waidyatilleka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The devastation of suicide on survivors - family, friends, teachers, fellow students - is unfathomable. Suicide far more than the tragic and unnecessary loss of an individual, but the tremendous ripple effect of lives damaged that continues to cost us. Bullying is a KNOWN contributor to suicidal thinking. We can and must do everything we can to reach the kids, victims and perpetrators, in time to save and improve lives. Let's nip this problem in its early stages. Please pass this legislation. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	elijah.matsuzaki@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:42:59 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Matsuzaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill because we don't need to use money to stop suicides. We should just make people feel better about themselves by having gatherings at schools or meeting places. And have parents and their children come and the parents can talk to their children about their problems and children cant feel better about themselves and won't want to commit suicide.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	<u>ikaia.kw@halaukumana.org</u>
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:42:24 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ikaia kupahu- waiolama	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The bill that I read was about teen suicides. What we were trying to figure out was if we need money to solve this issue. The paper that I read said that some teens commit suicide because of stress, finance problems, bullying and other problems in their lives. I support and oppose that we need money to decrease the percentage of teen suicides. I support this bill. I support this bill, because I think that some teens need another household just for them, because then they can see what they are doing to themselves. And not only to themselves but to their community. I think that they can sit down and talk to one another. And relate and think and hopefully realize what they are doing to the world at that. I also oppose. I oppose, because I don't think that money can buy us less teens committing suicide. But I do believe people making a change in the world. Maybe people who have thought of committing suicide could probably go to the park with someone who can talk them out of committing suicide. Thats how I believe our statistics on teen suicide will go down.Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	ikaia.kw@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:22:02 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ikaia kupahu- waiolama	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support and oppose this claim.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	naluboi9700@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:44:13 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: SB978 I support this because the people are going to give money to the school so that the kids that have mental issue and suicidal thoughts will get helped. Also if the people wouldn't give money to the school that can help the kids that think of dying then more people that think of dying will actually die. In conclusion you should try and help kids that think of dying because trying is better than not trying.

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Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keola Mendes	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: this is about bullying. I want to make a bill about bullying because it happens alot around the world and it hurts llots of people. I also say this because people get hurt so bad by bullying they commit suicide. Suicide is also bad because because teens or children lose their life and their parents are always really sad.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	kilihune.meyer@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:39:51 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kili meyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill is about educating our teens to a anti-bullying and youth suicide. We in Hawaii have a high rate of youth suicide caused by feelings of stress, confusion, self doubt, pressure to succeed, financial uncertainly, or fears to solutions to teen problems like bulling. Teen take their lives away because of these problems and no help. People may say that why spend more many on education when the child's parent can help? well some kids only have school, most kids in Hawaii don't have parental support. So kids can come to school and get educated on something that they would never learn at home. I support this bill because i did experience friends and family that were close to me, take their lives away because of not being educated and not have help with these problems. Hawaii has to money to fund, and we have a good enough reason to.

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Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanaly Cabalo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	jenna.tamashiro@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:46:49 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maka	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This bill is about talks about how suicide is a serious health problem. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in the United States for people between the ages of 15-24. If they are feeling stress, confusion, or any other problems that cause fear then they think that suicide is the solution. Hawai'i's suicide rate is higher among 15-19 year-olds then 42 other states that reported. Though it's high in that age group, it drops between the ages 20-24. According to data from 42 other states, Hawai'i is the 7th highest for attempting or planning to commit suicide. It is also the 15th highest for self-inflicted injuries. The people who made this bill want money to give to schools to make prevent suicide programs. They also think that they could help people who are thinking of committing suicide. I think that they should fund them because trying is better then doing nothing. Trying to prevent suicide.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	malie.heine@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:31:25 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malie Heine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like the legislature to support this bill. Suicide is already an awful thing to talk about or witness, but it's worse that young adults are contemplating, attempting, and committing suicide. Worst of all, suicide rates for teenagers in Hawaii are higher than ever before. If this helps suicidal teenagers get better and feel better, I very much wish the legislature will pass this bill.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	EDU Testimony
Cc:	nainoa.orr@halaukumana.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB978 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date:	Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:43:01 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2015 Testimony for EDU/HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nainoa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the relations to youth bill. I oppose this bill because I feel the state of Hawaii should put the taxpayers money to more important things not youth suicide. The parents of the children of Hawaii should teach their kids not to commit suicide or attempted suicide.

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