

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN ONLY

Testimony **COMMENTING on** H.B. 2169 H.D.1  
RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Hearing Date: 04/06/18 11:00am Room Number: 211

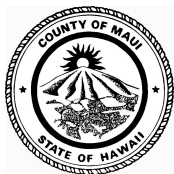
1 **Fiscal Implications:** H.B. 2169 HD1 requests an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal  
2 year 2018-2019 for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in  
3 Maui county. The Department defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request for  
4 appropriations and personnel priorities.

5 **Department Testimony: The Department of Health supports the intent of H.B. 2169 H.D.1.**  
6 Between 2010 -2016 there were 150 suicides among all residents aged 10 to 24 years, making  
7 suicide the leading cause of injury death for this age group. The 150 suicides accounted for 28%  
8 of all deaths among residents of this age, and 40% of the injury-related deaths. The annual  
9 number varied from 24 to 38 deaths per year. For every youth who dies from suicide in Hawaii,  
10 there are an estimated 8 (239 per year) who are hospitalized and another 18 (540 per year) who  
11 are treated in emergency departments (ED) for nonfatal self-inflicted injuries each year.

12 Rates of suicide among youth are higher for all Neighbor Islands in comparison to Honolulu  
13 County. EMSIPSB data shows that youth suicide and attempted suicide are significantly higher  
14 in rural communities compared to Oahu

15 Given the higher rates of youth suicide in rural communities, the Emergency Medical Services  
16 and Injury Prevention System Branch respectively recommends that H.B. 2169 H.D.1 be amended  
17 to include the distribution of funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education  
18 initiatives to Hawaii County, Kauai County, and Maui County.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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April 5, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Friday April 6, 2018  
11:00 AM  
Conference Room 211  
Re: HB2169 HD1 Relating to Youth Suicide Protection

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, On behalf of the members of the Maui County Commission on Children and Youth, I offer our strong support for HB2169 HD1, with the purpose of appropriating funds to support youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui County.

Maui County has been identified as having the highest incidents of youth suicide attempts in the state. We need to support the efforts of the networks that address this most serious issue of our community by appropriating these funds. The mission of our commission is that "All Maui County children and youth will reach adulthood having experienced a safe, healthy and nurturing childhood which prepare them to become responsible and contributing members of or community."

Youth of today face unique challenges in their lives. Our children are our most precious resource and we must support them in their struggles as well as celebrate their accomplishments.

Mahalo nui loa,

Hannibal E. Starbuck  
Pukalani, Maui

**HB-2169-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 5:00:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2169 HD1** relating to Youth Suicide Prevention; and an appropriation.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **HB2169 HD1** and supports its passage.

**HB2169 HD1**, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[w]e believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so.

We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive. (Platform of DPH, P. 4, Lines 184-187 (2016)).

"We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition.

We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever support assistance is needed to

allow them to remain free of drug dependence." (Platform of DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-384 (2016)).

Given that **HB2169 HD1** appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui county, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel: (808) 258-8889

**HB-2169-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 8:46:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brent Oto	Testifying for U.S. Arm Hawaii - Suicide Prevention Program	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2169-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 3:37:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karin Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: