

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1416 H.D. 1  
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health estimates approximately \$12,000 would be  
2 needed for research, facilitation, and Neighbor Island commission member travel. The  
3 Department defers to the priorities in the Governor's Executive biennium budget request.

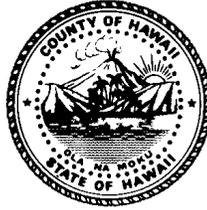
4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of H.B. 1416 H.D. 1.  
5 The purpose of H.B.1416 H.D. 1 is to establish a suicide prevention commission to examine,  
6 evaluate, and determine methods to improve education, awareness, support services, and inmate  
7 outreach to best prevent suicides in Hawaii's correctional facilities. The commission will submit  
8 a report and strategic plan 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

9 In response to HCR 66, passed by the 2016 Legislature, the plan to reduce suicides in Hawaii by  
10 25% by 2025 was completed by the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF) in  
11 collaboration with the Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch  
12 (EMSIPSB). One of the plan's key goal is to increase knowledge of discrimination and stigma  
13 in the context of mental health and suicide prevention with marginalized and/or vulnerable  
14 communities such as prison inmates.

15 According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Hawaii's inmate suicide rate was the  
16 seventh highest in the nation with 390 suicide deaths per 100,000 in the period 2001 – 2014.  
17 Establishing a time-limited subcommittee with representative membership tasked with a strategic  
18 plan, will give greater visibility and weight to addressing the problem of suicide in Hawaii's  
19 correctional facilities.

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**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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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 25, 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: HB 330, HD1 Relating to Suicide Prevention**

HB 330 sent me to Google to better understand the need for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education programs. The statistics are enough to explain the importance of this bill.

Suicide deaths in Hawai'i County, according to our Hawai'i State Department of Health, average 20.4 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of about 13 deaths per 100,000. When it comes to youth age 15-19, the number is even higher—26.4 per 100,000; and for young adults aged 20-24, higher still—37.9 per 100,000.

My understanding is that statistics for Kauai and Maui are similarly disturbing.

Every one of these deaths is preventable, and if we have the expertise to offer programs that can reach these young people and suggest different paths forward for them, it seems we owe it to them, and to their families, friends, and loved ones, to make the effort. In fact, we owe it to ourselves as a just and caring society.

I hope you will act favorably on HB 330, HD1, and perhaps include funding in the House version of the State budget as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR



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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 330, HD1 - RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 330, HD1**, relating to suicide prevention. This measure would appropriate funds to support youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death nationwide for youth age 15-24; in Hawaii, the data on youth suicide attempts is especially concerning. According to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 10% of high school students in Hawaii reported attempting suicide in the previous year compared to 7% nationwide. To make matters worse, our neighbor island youth are especially at risk of attempting suicide; the 2017 YRBS found that 12% of youth in Hawaii County and 11% of youth in Maui County have attempted suicide.

Suicide rates vary by area, with neighbor island and rural communities seeing higher rates than urban areas. For the period from 2013 to 2015, the statewide suicide rate was 12.9 deaths for every one hundred thousand individuals (not only youth). For the same time period, for every one hundred thousand people, the counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i had 20.4, 15.9, and 14.6 deaths, respectively. The city and county of Honolulu's suicide rate, at 10.3 deaths for every one hundred thousand people, was slightly lower than the state average.

To address the mental health crisis, especially among our youth, we must act now to implement best-practice suicide prevention programs in our schools; these programs should be rolled out in our neighbor island schools first considering the high rate of suicide attempts among youth in these communities.

To reduce the risk of suicide among Hawaii's youth, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HB 330, HD1.



Tuesday, February 26, 2019

House Bill 330 HD1

Testifying in Support, with amendments

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii (DPH) supports HB330 HD1 Relating to Suicide Prevention, which appropriates moneys for youth suicide intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

The DPH recommends amending the bill be amended to include Maui county.

According to [hawaiihealthmatters.org](http://hawaiihealthmatters.org)<sup>1</sup>, in 2017 Kauai county had 3.4 percent, Hawaii county had 3.5 percent, and Maui County had 3.1 percent of its teens attempt suicide.

Relative to Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii Island, and Maui have been afforded grossly inadequate resources to treat minors experiencing mental health issues, with no residential facilities available that accept MedQuest. This is especially troubling when we know the rate of suicide is much greater in these two counties. To the extent this disproportionate rate is due to an imbalance in funding, it is imperative for the Legislature to take immediate action. It is not only a matter of equity or fairness, it is a matter life and death.

On June 8, 2018, in a Hawaii News Now story<sup>2</sup>, Trisha Kajimura, Mental Health America of Hawai'i Executive Director, said this, about the suicide statistics in Hawaii. "What's also known about neighbor islands is the difficulty in accessing mental health care, as well as other types of medical care. So, when you put those things together, it can be difficult to find help even when you want it."

For years, behavioral health concerns have been stigmatized, which forces these conversations into the shadows. The shadows are where hopelessness blooms and death results.

Creating access for behavioral health services to every person living in Hawaii is a priority for the DPH.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

1. <http://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=2500&localeId=601>
2. <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/38377686/cdc-suicide-rates-in-hawaii-on-the-rise/>



ONLINE SUBMITTAL  
Submitted: February 25, 2019

**HEARING:** February 26, 2019 11:00 a.m. in room 308

**TO:** House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**RE:** **Strong Support for HB 330 HD1 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 provides necessary funding for youth suicide early prevention, intervention and education in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

We are committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, and everything that comes between. 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 the past few months.

In Hawaii, suicide was the most common cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2010 and 2014, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries and experts point out that one person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. 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.

If this bill is passed with the appropriate funds necessary, Kauai and Hawaii County youth will have resources that may very well save their life. Protecting these precious lives are an outcome that is one upon which everyone in the community will agree. Funding for these types of services, we hope, will go a long way towards helping Hawaii's keiki thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:23:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brett Kulbis	Honolulu County Republican Party	Support	No

Comments:

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 11:00AM

House Conference Room 208

**Committee on Finance**

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Chanel-Marie Josiah  
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Social Work Candidate  
Kauai Mental Health Advocates (KMHA), Co-Founder

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB 330 HD1  
Relating to Suicide Prevention**

My name is Chanel-Marie Josiah, Co-Founder of Kauai Mental Health Advocates and a UH Manoa School of Social Work Candidate. Kauai Mental Health Advocates is a not-for-profit advocacy group in which we provide a safe space for communal healing, resource sharing and connecting community members with each other through monthly Community Conversations.

I am writing **in strong support of HB 330** which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education initiatives on Kauai and Hawaii counties (HD330 HD1).

Kaua'i is fighting an epidemic; our entire state is. On September 10, 2017, The Garden Island Newspaper published an article indicating the apparent suicide epidemic on Kaua'i. From January through the date of the article, there were 21 suicide deaths, though, suicide attempt numbers were not available at the time.

This measure, by appropriating funds, is the first step towards the intervention process.

Youth suicide prevention, intervention and education will serve as an integral part to ending the overall stigma that suffocates the term "mental health" and will allow an opportunity to foster healthy conversations when youth choose to open up to a trusting adult. A simple online search of "suicide statistics" will illustrate a clear correlation between mental health and suicide.

In efforts to reduce the risk of suicide deaths among Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island youth, I ask your committee to support **HB 330**.

Mahalo,  
Chanel-Marie Josiah

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 11:00 AM  
Conference Room 308

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 330, HD1  
Relating to Suicide Prevention**

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My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

**I write in support of HB 330, HD1** which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.

A teen in Hawai'i is nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide as a teen elsewhere in the United States, with 2,280 reporting having attempted suicide here in 2007, according to a Centers for Disease Control survey in Hawaii's schools. This data has been confirmed by the Department of Health which found that 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 suicides. The neighbor islands have a higher suicide attempt rate among the youth than Oahu. While suicide or suicide attempt is troubling at any age, youth suicide has unique challenges.

Funding for youth-focused outreach programs through early intervention, prevention, and education would bring community awareness to the problem of youth suicide. This effort would stem the tide of the alarming frequency of youth suicide attempts and help our youths in leading less troubled lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:51:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of HB 330 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



Monday, February 25, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Subject: **Support HB330 H.D.1**

Dear Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee,

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee **strongly supports HB330 H.D.1** to appropriate funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai, Maui, and Hawai'i counties.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injuries in Hawai'i. IPAC members include representatives from public and private agencies, physicians and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury, including violence prevention.

Between 2013 - 2017, there were 153 suicides among all residents aged 15 to 24 years, making suicide the leading cause of injury related deaths for this age group. Data shows that youth suicide rates are significantly higher for all Neighbor Islands in comparison to the City and County of Honolulu.

Given the higher rates of youth suicide in the Neighbor Island counties of Kauai, Hawaii, and Maui, we urge you to support HB330 H.D.1 as a measure that will increase youth focused suicide prevention awareness, prevention, and early intervention resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Deborah Goebert  
Chair  
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

## 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

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 330 HD1 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**Hearing: February 26, 2019, 11:00 am, CR 308**

Thank you for hearing **House Bill 330 HD1**, which appropriates funds for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Maui, Kauai and Hawai'i counties.

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.

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.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 330 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

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:28:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:17:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kai Lorinc	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:19:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tracey Clay-Whitehurst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:39:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Quentin Whitehurst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:43:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<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 HB330. 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

**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:49:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stefani jeremiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB330 HD1**  
**RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
Ke Kōmike Kumuwaiwai

Pepeluali 26, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Lumi 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to **COMMENT** on HB330 HD1, which seeks to support early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives addressing youth suicide in Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i, and Maui counties.

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies that can reduce health inequities faced by Native Hawaiians. Most recently, OHA spearheaded the State effort to codify “social determinants of health” through Act 155 (Reg. Sess. 2014) and require state agencies to take a holistic and systemic approach to addressing health disparities seen in Native Hawaiian and other communities. Therefore, OHA appreciates the intent of this measure to address the harms and health issues that drive young people, including a disproportionate number of young Native Hawaiians, to suicide and suicide attempts.

Recent data has raised significant concerns about the impacts of suicide and attempted suicide on the Native Hawaiian community. Alarmingly, **Native Hawaiian youth are substantially more likely to ideate and attempt suicide** than their peers.<sup>1</sup> 24.1% of Native Hawaiian females in public high schools have seriously considered attempting suicide compared to 18.7% of non-Hawaiian females.<sup>2</sup> Statewide, the percentage of Native Hawaiian males in the 10th grade who had previously attempted suicide (11%) was more than double that of their non-Hawaiian peers (5.2%).<sup>3</sup> Tragically, suicide and suicide attempts may not just impact the individuals involved, but carry long-lasting consequences for families and the broader community as well.

Suicide and suicide attempt rates vary by geographic area, with neighbor island and rural communities seeing higher rates than O‘ahu and urban areas. OHA research confirms higher rates of suicide and suicide attempts by Native Hawaiian youth in Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i, and Maui counties in particular. Therefore, OHA believes that this measure’s targeted focus of resources toward those communities whose youth demonstrate the greatest need for support is appropriate.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA—TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING 19-25 (2018).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 19-20.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 22.



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



**Date:** 02/26/2019  
**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Location:** 308  
**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education  
**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education  
**Title of Bill:** HB 0330, HD1 RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.  
**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties. (HB330 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 0330, HD1.

The Department recognizes a need for increased interventions to address the higher rates of suicide among youth on the Neighbor Islands in comparison to Honolulu County. This bill would help to address and prevent youth suicide in Kauai and Hawaii Counties. In alignment with the Department of Health's requested amendment, the Department similarly requests that Maui County also be included in this bill to sustain and fully implement plans for youth suicide prevention projects in that county.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 0330, HD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**Parents And  
Children Together**  
BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

**LATE**

**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: February 26, 2019; 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 330– RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**We ask you to support HB 330 which appropriates money for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kauai and Hawaii counties.** We support this bill which will appropriate funding to the Department of Health to support our youth particularly on Kauai and Hawaii Island, which have been hardest hit by natural disasters during 2018. As a provider of services on both Kauai and Hawaii Island, we saw firsthand how lives were upended during the extreme flooding and lava disasters causing stress and trauma to many local residents.

There is 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, suicide (as well as non-fatal injury) rates tend to be higher on neighbor islands where there is greater difficulty in accessing mental health or other medical care.
- 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 intervention, prevention and education initiatives for youth can be life saving. It also raises the awareness of caring for one's mental health and can help to reduce the negative stigma associated with mental health related issues. These initiatives can 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 the community 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 HB 330**. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

Chair of The House or Senate Committee (FIN)

H.B. NO. HB330 H.D. 1

February 26, 2019

11:00 am House Conference Room 308

**LATE**

My name is Rianne Kawano. I am 23 years old, currently a BSW student at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. I am testifying in support of bill H.B 330 H.D. 1 addressing money appropriation for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kaua‘i and Hawai‘i counties.

I recognize that there are higher rates of suicide in neighbor islands, including Hawai‘i Island, where I reside. The Department of Education recognizes this issue as well, making the the bill H.B 330 H.D. 1 powerful and ready to help the youth across our islands. Schools are great place for youth to not only get a proper scholastic education, but to also learn about their resources for support and guidance for an overall healthy lifestyle for consistent success.

We are not only putting money into support and guidance, but into programs for the future to continue to help our community with suicide intervention, prevention, and education. Now is the time for us to put money into strengthening our community now and for generations to come.

I support bill H.B 330 H.D. 1 for my Hawai‘i Island and for the bright future of all of Hawai‘i.

Thank you,

Rianne Kawano

[rmkawano@hawaii.edu](mailto:rmkawano@hawaii.edu)



**HB-330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:08:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Wistinghausen	Prevent Suicide Kauai Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Patricia Wistinghausen, I'm a voter from Kaua'i, and am writing in support of HB330 HD1 and ask that you vote to support the appropriation of moneys for youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and education initiatives in Kaua'i and Hawai'i counties.

On Kaua'i, I have been an active member of the Prevent Suicide Kaua'i Task Force for the past 5 years.

Within the group, I help by coordinating events and outreach education opportunities, such as tabling at health fairs, conferences and legislative forums related to health; by walking in and passing out suicide prevention resource info during the Veterans Day parade; by being part of the planning committee for our annual Suicide Prevention Awareness walk; and by working with youth-focused organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i and the Kaua'i Community College PAU group and helping young people create posters with positive messaging that they can then hold in sign wavings across the island.

I have also created marketing materials, such as signs and the PSKTF Info cards with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline # 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and Crisis Text Line: Text ALOHA to 741741.

And for the past several years, I have been one of only three safeTALK Suicide Prevention Trainers for our island that have been offering this free training to our community. We are in short supply of active trainers and though we partner with public, private and non-profit agencies, majority of us are volunteers.

Specifically, we can use this funding to revive our Kaua'i Leaders Against Suicide (KLAS) program and support their activities. This is a youth-led program and creates a means for peer to peer suicide prevention education. Adults from the PSKTF are designated as mentors and guides for KLAS members, but the ideas and activities generated are a product of what the youth feel are ways they can best reach other

students; which can be a lot more effective messaging than when it comes from an adult.

As members of the task force, we are often asked what are we doing to reach young people and work with the schools. KLAS is a way and in addition to training counselors, teachers and staff, reaching our students and partnering with our students is a critical component of our outreach we would like focus on, but need funding assistance for.

I again ask you to please support funding and passage of HB330 HD1 to support youth focused suicide prevention, intervention, education initiatives within the Kaua'i and Hawai'i counties.

Mahalo for your time,

Patricia Wistinghausen

Prevent Suicide Kaua'i Task Force

safeTALK Suicide Prevention Trainer