



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Hawaii

PRESS RELEASE

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Youth Suicide Prevention Bill Becomes Law

For the general population statewide in Hawaii, there is one suicide death every 2.8 days.

Honolulu. Representative John Mizuno today applauded the Governor's signing of HB55 into law as Act 124. The bill, relating to youth suicide prevention and authored by Rep. Mizuno, will place a youth suicide prevention program within the Department of Health. It will establish educational and early intervention & prevention programs to deal with the rising rates of youth suicide.

Department of Health statistics show that between the ages of 10 and 18, there are usually between three and nine suicides per year. Between the years 1991 and 2005, there were 81 cases total. In Hawaii, suicide is the second leading cause of death among persons who are 15 to 24 years old. Rates of youth suicide have been on the rise in the last decade among both females and males, and among all ethnic groups.

"The focus of the measure is to establish a statewide youth suicide and early intervention and prevention program," said Rep. Mizuno, vice chair of the Committee on Health. "This measure will ultimately assist in the prevention of suicide, not only for our youth but for all in Hawaii." For the general population statewide in Hawaii, there is one suicide death every 2.8 days.

Rep. Mizuno added, "I have always stated that life is so precious, I will continue to do all I can to save lives."

Research shows that youth suicide is linked to underlying mental health problems that can be addressed through early intervention and prevention strategies.

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