



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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HAWAI'I RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION FOR YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) has been awarded \$1.5 million (\$500,000 per year for three years) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for youth suicide prevention and early intervention projects. Hawai'i's award is one of 18 grants totaling almost \$27 million over three years to support state suicide prevention efforts.

"These federal funds build on and strengthen our existing suicide prevention efforts to increase youth access to the support and services of trained gatekeepers in Hawai'i," stated Director of Health Chiyome Fukino, MD. "With this funding the Department of Health will be able to increase training for adult gatekeepers in key agencies to recognize and respond to youth who are at risk for suicide."

"Each year, more children and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic lung diseases combined," said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Eric Broderick, D.D.S., M.P.H. "These new grants will help states build on and strengthen established youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies."

Hawai'i's Gatekeeper Training Initiative (HGTI) will leverage grant resources by incorporating gatekeeper training in three systems that already impact significant members of youth in both school and community settings. These agencies and their programs include: Department of Education (Peer Education Program and School-Based Behavioral Health), the Department of

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Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (agencies contracted to provide treatment services in their Adolescent Substance Abuse Outpatient School-Based Treatment Program, and prevention services in their Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Partnerships Initiative), and the Honolulu Police Department (Emergency Psychological Services/Jail Diversion Program).

The HGTI will also complement and greatly enhance Hawai'i's current statewide efforts to build a coordinated system of prevention and intervention services for suicide prevention that includes: 1) conducting statewide suicide prevention conferences and workshops to educate and support professionals, community members and survivors on evidence-based practices; 2) working with the Suicide Prevention Task force to implement the state plan and expand the statewide suicide prevention network; 3) developing and implementing a statewide suicide prevention awareness campaign appropriate for Hawai'i's multi-ethnic population; and 4) providing ongoing gatekeeper training to build a cadre of suicide prevention gatekeepers in communities throughout the state.

A list of the 18 State Suicide Prevention grant award recipients can be found at <http://www.samhsa.gov>

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For media questions about this news release, contact:
Janice Okubo
DOH Public Information Officer
Phone: (808) 586-4442