



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED
Registration for June and July workshops is now open

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Injury Prevention and Control Program is offering free suicide prevention workshops. Registration is now open. This training is geared toward "gatekeepers" or those individuals who may come into contact with persons who may be experiencing a crisis that may lead to suicide thoughts and actions.

Workshops are being held at the following locations:

Oahu

- Dept of Education Windward District Office – July 6-7
- Department of Education Annex Building – July 9-10 and July 16-17

Island of Hawai'i

- Kona - Kealakehe Intermediate School – June 29-30
- Hilo site – to be announced.

Participants must register and commit to two full days (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.). Registrants will receive an e-mail confirmation upon registering. Those interested can find registration and workshop information at hawaii.gov/health/ under "Health Events." There is no cost to the participant and enrollment is limited.

Suicide continues to be an urgent public health issue in Hawai'i:

(more)

- Suicide is the second leading cause of injury death in Hawai'i with youth especially vulnerable.
- About 120 lives are lost to this tragedy each year (one every three days); another 860 individuals are hospitalized or treated in emergency departments after attempting to take their own lives.
- Nationally, over 30,000 people take their own lives every year.

In the two-day suicide prevention session, called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), workshop participants learn to use a suicide intervention model developed by *Living Works*, a suicide prevention training agency based in Canada with an established history of success. One of the strengths of the workshops is that it links participants with suicide prevention resources in their community including specific telephone numbers, names and websites.

Counselors, teachers, social workers, clergy, crisis workers, law enforcement, health workers, and anyone concerned about family members and friends are invited to register. Workshops are at no cost to participants. Training is sponsored by the Hawai'i Gatekeeper Training Initiative, a 3-year federal grant awarded to the Hawai'i State Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Control Program.

The Hawai'i Gatekeeper Training Initiative focuses on youth suicide prevention strategies through training of gatekeepers, and is funded by the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. Spearheaded by former Senator Gordon Smith, whose 22 year-old son took his own life in 2004, the Act provides funding to states to establish youth suicide prevention strategies.

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