



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH HOSTS SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE
AND MEDIA WORKSHOP**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health is sponsoring Hawai'i's third annual statewide Survivors of Suicide conference, *Prevent Suicide: Survivors and Community Partners in Action*, on November 19 at the Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio and Suicide Prevention Media Workshop on November 20 at the Queen's Conference Center. Professional health and social services workers, educators, those affected by suicide, the media and the public are urged to attend. Conference Registration is required by November 10 and seating is limited.

The conference is part of an ongoing collaborative effort to address a major public health challenge in the state. Suicide is the second leading cause of injury death in Hawai'i. Every three days in Hawai'i, one person dies by suicide (an average of 119 residents per year), and at least seven people are seen in a hospital after attempting suicide (an average of 850 residents per year).

"The Department of Health has been working closely with our community partners, including survivors, to address the critical issue of suicide in Hawai'i," said Health Director Chiyome Fukino, M.D. "Survivors can play a significant role in Hawai'i's suicide prevention efforts, from support groups to advocacy, and we all need to work together to make it happen."

Dr. Daniel J. Reidenberg is the conference keynote speaker. His address will be on the grief process following a suicide for those left behind and will include helpful information for healthcare providers on how to help family, friends and colleagues who have lost a loved one to

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suicide. Entitled “From Surviving to Thriving,” his presentation will offer hope and inspiration following the tragedy of suicide. Dr. Reidenberg is the Executive Director of SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education), a national non-profit agency working to prevent suicide and help suicide survivors. He recently convened a meeting of national experts to develop the new Media Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide. Dr. Reidenberg will also be giving a 2-hour workshop on suicide prevention and the media where he will cover challenges that must be considered when developing a media campaign or working with the media to prevent unintended effects. He will also cover the latest groundbreaking research on the impact of public awareness campaigns related to suicide prevention.

Judge Thomas K. Kaulukukui, Jr. will give the other keynote address on the importance of culture and *‘ohana* in turning tragedy into hope, help, healing, and action. Other conference speakers will also share their expertise within three broad categories: responsibility, support and care. Speaking on “Suicide in Hawai‘i” covering prevention strategies, collaboration and how to get involved are Dr. Dan Galanis, Dan Yahata and Martin Hackel. There are sessions on overcoming adversity through community building and family strengthening, help and resources available in the community, healing through the arts, survivor sharing, and forgiveness.

Co-sponsors of the conference are HMSA, APS Healthcare, the Suicide Prevention Task Force, and the Hawai‘i Suicide Prevention and Education, Awareness, and Research (S.P.E.A.R) Foundation. The Queen’s Medical Center is the co-sponsor of the media training. In concert with the conference, Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center and Papa Ola Lokahi are co-sponsoring Hawai‘i’s First Annual Prevent Suicide Hawai‘i Community Walk on November 19 after the Conference.

Conference, community walk and media training details and registration information are posted on the Department of Health website at www.hawaii.gov/health. For further information, call 733-9320.

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