



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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SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS OFFERED

HONOLULU -- The Department of Health in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Hawaii S.P.E.A.R. Foundation of America is conducting suicide prevention training statewide. This training is geared to "gatekeepers" or those who may be in contact with suicidal individuals. Counselors, clergy, community caregivers, crisis workers, law enforcement, psychologists, school administrators, social workers, teachers, and anyone who is interested in preventing suicides are invited.

This two-day suicide prevention training called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) prepares individuals to recognize and assess the risk of an individual in crisis and teaches them to provide suicide prevention first-aid, thereby minimizing the suicide risk. It also provides information about referring people to appropriate resources.

"These workshops give gatekeepers the tools to save lives and will help develop our community capacity to recognize and help people who are at risk of suicide," said Dr. Chiyome L. Fukino, Director of Health.

Suicide continues to be an urgent public health issue in Hawaii:

- Suicide is the single leading cause of injury death in Hawaii
- Hawaii loses 128 lives to this tragedy each year (about one every three days), and another 870 are hospitalized after attempting to take their own lives.
- Nationwide, Hawaii had the second highest percentage of youth who reported that they "seriously considered attempting suicide" (nearly 20 percent)

- Hawaii had the second highest percentage of youth who reported "attempted suicide" among 39 states reporting (13 percent).

Scheduled A.S.I.S.T. workshops are: Big Island, March 27-28 and May 17-18; Kauai, April 3-4; Maui, April 9-10; and O'ahu, June 27-28. Participants need to register in advance and commit two full days (7:30 am to 4:30 pm) for the workshop. For registration and cost information, please call 734-9256 (Kapiolani Community College) or the Department of Health at 586-5939. This information is also posted on the DOH Injury Prevention website at <http://www.hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/injury-prevention/index.html>

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For information contact:
Art Tani
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Phone: 586-5939