



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH OFFERS HELP TO INDIVIDUALS COPING WITH
TRAGIC FREEWAY INCIDENT**

HONOLULU – Hawai'i residents hearing of today's tragic freeway incident and the loss of a child may be profoundly affected by it. Anyone might experience grief, anger or other very strong feelings. This may especially be true of any person who viewed the incident or news coverage of it.

"Our community is shocked and saddened by the tragic loss of one of our children," said Michelle Hill, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health. "We encourage all adults to talk about the incident with other adults who they trust - family members, clergy, medical or mental health professionals."

Children may react differently – Listening and talking to children about their concern can reassure them that they will be safe. Start by encouraging them to discuss how they have been affected by what is happening around them. Even young children may have specific questions about tragedies. Children react to stress at their own developmental level.

If you see or know someone suffering because of this loss, please try to reach out to them, give them support and help them to access assistance if they need it. Please access this support for yourself if you need it.

The Department of Health, through its Access Line, stands ready to help individuals to cope with this tragic incident and refer individuals who need help; **832-3100** on Oahu; **1-800-753-6879** on the Neighbor Islands.

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