



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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DOH Offers Suicide Prevention Workshops

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i State Department of Health's Injury Prevention Program in partnership with the Suicide Prevention Task Force, and Hawai'i Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Research (SPEAR) Foundation of America, is offering suicide prevention workshops statewide. This training is geared to "gatekeepers" who may come in contact with individuals who are considering suicide.

The two-day suicide prevention training, called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), prepares individuals to recognize and respond to those in crisis. Workshop participants learn to use a suicide intervention model to reduce the risk of suicide. The workshop also covers information to link people with community resources.

Counselors, teachers, social workers, clergy, crisis workers, law enforcement, health workers, and anyone concerned about family members and friends are encouraged to attend.

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

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

(more)

Scheduled ASIST workshops will be held on the following days:

Maui, August 22-23 (Puunene)

Moloka'i, September 11-12

Kaua'i, September 25-26

O'ahu, August 28-29; October 23-24; December 4-5

Big Island, November 6-7 (Hilo)

Participants must register and pay in advance and commit two full days (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) for the workshops. For registration, cost information and meeting locations, call 733-9238 or 733-9320. Information is also available at www.hawaii.gov/health under the health events section of the DOH website.

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For information contact:
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