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February 8, 2019

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Committee on Education

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Committee on Human Services

Dear Chair Kidani, Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 383 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 383, dealing with youth suicide prevention.

I am not knowledgeable enough, nor do I have the expertise, to comment on the specific detailed approach to suicide prevention laid out in this bill. However, having done some minimal research to warrant supporting SB226 (funding for suicide prevention on Kauai and Hawai'i by the Department of Health), I feel comfortable urging this Legislature to recruit the Department of Education in the prevention effort.

Whether or not you feel comfortable mandating the specific provisions of SB 383, or choose to pass a more generic bill, I leave to your discretion. In either case, I hope you keep the concept alive for further discussion, and perhaps explicitly recognize that additional funding may be necessary if your mandate is to be properly carried out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR