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February 21, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 383, SD1 Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 383, SD1, 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 SB 226, SD1 (funding for suicide prevention on Kauai, Maui, 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 want to mandate the specific provisions of SB 383, SD1, 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