



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 Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Hawaii S.P.E.A.R. Foundation of America, is conducting suicide prevention workshops on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu. 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.

The two-day suicide prevention training, called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), prepares individuals to recognize and assess the risk of those in crisis. Workshop participants will learn to provide suicide prevention first-aid, thus minimizing the suicide risk. The workshop will also cover information and resources to give to those “at risk.”

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

- Suicide is the second 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

Scheduled A.S.I.S.T. workshops will be held at the following locations:

- Big Island (Hilo), August 17-18
- Oahu, September 20-21

(more)

- Maui, October 11-12
- Big Island (Hilo) November 1-2
- Oahu, November 29-30 and December 10-11

Participants must register and pay in advance and commit two full days (7:30 am to 4:30 pm) for the workshops. For registration and cost information, call 734-9256 (Kapiolani Community College). Information is also posted on the DOH website at www.hawaii.gov/health and www.nogethurt.hawaii.gov.

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For information contact:
Art Tani
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Phone: (808) 586-5939