



INJURY PREVENTION

EMS & TRAUMA NEWSLETTER

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Aloha,

Welcome to the first issue of 2019 Injury Prevention, EMS & Trauma Newsletter. This web-based publication is a compilation of member spotlights, briefs and announcements assembled by the [Hawaii Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch](#) (EMSIPSB). The objective of this newsletter is to inform partners across the state about EMS, trauma and injury issues, activities, trainings, and milestones related to strengthening our Hawaii state EMS and Injury Prevention System.

Contributions are available under the following categories:

Member Spotlights: Highlights the notable contribution of individuals or partners in the field of emergency medical services, trauma and injury prevention in Hawaii .

Member Briefs: As the central component of the newsletter, briefs partners on emerging efforts, current issues, achievements and milestones to strengthen collaboration.

Member Reminders: Announces committee and conference dates, annual reports, emerging events, technical assistance tools and trainings.

We all do great work; share the news, no matter the magnitude!

Submissions are included if they address the leading causes of injury and death in Hawaii and help to educate, support, and mobilize individuals and organizations to effectively work together in preventing injuries.

Finally, you are receiving these updates, announcements and other important information because we joined several distribution lists. Your ongoing membership is important; we hope you remain involved or interested in EMS, trauma and injury prevention work.





Hawaii Emergency Medical Services Week May 19-25, 2019

Tiffany Lightfoot—State Trauma Program Coordinator

Governor David Y. Ige and Lieutenant Governor Joshua B. Green proclaimed May 19-25, 2019 as "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK" in Hawaii. They asked the people of the Aloha State to join them in thanking the men and women who dedicate their lives to provide lifesaving emergency medical services to Hawaii residents and visitors.



[Read Proclamation](#)



Annual Senior Fall Prevention Awareness Campaign

June 17 – July 27, 2019

Stan Michaels— Fall Prevention Coordinator



Statistics from the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) [Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Branch \(EMSIPSB\)](#) show that about 130 seniors in Hawaii die each year from fall-related injuries. Another 9,400 are treated in hospitals for non-fatal injuries, including nearly 1,900 who are hospitalized. These are staggering numbers considering that families can be torn apart by these life altering injuries. In addition to the heavy emotional and physical toll of fall injuries to our seniors and their caregivers, there is also the burden of financial costs of an estimated \$207 million a year in hospital charges. This is the equivalent of \$567,000 per day just for senior falls.

To raise awareness about fall injuries and prevention, DOH will launch its [Annual Senior Fall Prevention Awareness Campaign from June 17 – July 27, 2019](#). The campaign will feature a broadcast educational video about fall prevention, new public service announcement, distribution of new medication reviews and balance testing information, Matter of Balance Coaches trainings, Tai Chi workshops, and community presentations that focus on preventing falls among older adults.

New to Hawaii are statewide Matter of Balance “Coaches” Trainings planned for June 28, 2019 in Kona on the Big Island Hawaii. The EMSIPSB will coordinate the training of new “Coaches” for the Matter of Balance project. Matter of Balance (MOB) is a CDC approved, Certified effective fall prevention program that specifically targets those seniors that have a “fear of falling” or have become home bound because of their concern about falling and injuring themselves. The MOB program is a nationwide success with hundreds of classes that truly benefit those with fall injury concerns. Five additional trainings have occurred in May and June on Maui, Kauai, Hilo, and Oahu. More trainings are planned.

EMSIPSB is excited about the MOB trainings because we hope to link future MOB classes to discharge procedures at Emergency Rooms statewide. The trauma coordinators are in a key position to refer newly discharged patients to the MOB classes and would be receiving a special advisory about MOB classes available in their area as they come on line. Stay tuned for new developments.



2018 Joint Services Suicide Prevention Proclamation Ceremony

Nancy Deeley—Suicide Prevention Coordinator

This past April, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) [Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch \(EMSIPSB\)](#) in partnership with the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF), held a two-day conference entitled “2019 Prevent Suicide Hawaii Statewide Conference: Hope, Help, Healing,” at the Ala Moana Hotel. Over 400 adults and youth attended.

The Conference brought together a community of survivors, advocates, educators, service providers, policymakers and health professionals to foster open and wide-ranging discussions on preventing suicide, capacity to respond to those in need of support, and removing the stigma associated with mental health and suicide.

Local and national experts in suicide prevention possessed depth and diversity on a wide range of topics that included increasing awareness of suicide prevention as a public health problem and enhancing skills to respond to those at risk, including those who have survived the loss of a loved one.

The national keynote speaker, Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), opened the Conference. AFSP is the leading national organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide.

This year we were honored to have Lt. Governor, Dr. Josh Green close the conference. He shared personal stories and stressed the need for participants to bring the knowledge learned at the conference back to the community to raise awareness that suicide is preventable and resources are available.

In Hawaii, it is estimated that one person dies by suicide every two days and suicide is the most common cause of fatal injuries. More than 90 percent of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, which often goes unrecognized or untreated.

If you or someone you know is suffering and in need of help, you can contact the Hawaii Crisis Line – 832-3100 Oahu and 1-800-753-8255 Neighbor Islands, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1-800-273 8255 (press 1 for military), and/or the National Text Line – 741-741 ALOHA. All are available 24 hrs. a day.





State of Hawaii Department of Health hosted Elder Abuse The Hidden Crime Training

Tiffany Lightfoot—State Trauma Program Coordinator

State of Hawaii Department of Health's Executive Office of Aging and [Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch \(EMSIPSB\)](#) joined to bring Paul Greenwood, JD to Hawaii Convention Center on April 23, 2019 teaching Elder Abuse: The Hidden Crime.

This training introduced multidisciplinary providers to the many “hidden” forms of elder abuse and practical tools to identify potential elder abuse situations. Course attendees included multidisciplinary providers including paramedics, physicians, nurses, law enforcement, home health operators, banking institutions, and more.

For those interested in bringing this course to your community, contact cristina.valenzuela@doh.hawaii.gov.

Paul Greenwood is a retired prosecutor from the San Diego District Attorney's office. During his 25 years working for the State of California, he has been involved in over 600 felony cases of elder and dependent adult abuse, both physical and financial. He is currently co-chair of California's District Attorney Elder Abuse Committee, an instructor with the California District Attorneys Association, the National District Attorneys Association and the American Prosecutors Institute.

Hawaii Stop the Bleed Day help on May 15, 2019

Governor Ige and Lieutenant Governor Green proclaimed May 15, 2019 as "STOP THE BLEED DAY" in Hawaii asking the people of the Aloha State to join them in recognizing the efforts of Hawaii State Department of Health EMSIPSB and the Hawaii Trauma Advisory Council for carrying out this important initiative. This initiative was launched by the White House in October 2015 to empower everyday citizens with the tools and knowledge to help stop uncontrolled bleeding in emergency situations.

Read [Proclamation](#)



Help us Build Momentum around Positive Messaging around

Preventing Underage Drinking

Kari Benes —Trauma System Public Health Educator

It is the season for graduation parties, concerts, and beach time. Along with the fun of summer comes an increased temptation to provide alcohol to minors. Providing alcohol to individuals under the age of 21 is illegal. According to Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) 2013, of Hawaii teens who drink, 69% report being given alcohol, being able to take alcohol from a store or family member, or being able to give money to someone to buy alcohol for them. Additionally, it is illegal in Hawaii to drive a motor vehicle with any amount of alcohol if you are under the age of 21. Yet, 12% of drivers 21 years old and under, who were involved in a fatal crash, tested positive for alcohol (Source, FARS 2013-2016).

The good news is that [Hawaii Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Branch \(EMSIPSB\)](#) along with [Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking \(HPPUD\)](#) want to equip you as a provider, parent or an influencer of teens and young adults with the facts and tips on how to prevent underage drinking. The HPPUD was created to address the problem of underage drinking in the State of Hawaii. The members of the partnership represent county, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, private businesses, and community residents concerned with the health of Hawaii's youth.

Fact Sheets and Tips:

- Sponsor a flight of radio adds on your favorite radio station;
- Share important information to friends or family with teens, especially older siblings;
- Provide a safe and open dialog with friends and teens about the positives about abstaining from alcohol Separate;
- Monitor and label coolers with adult beverages (over 21 only).

How you can expand the reach of this effort:

- Join, share about, or support HPPUD;
- Print or e-blast one of the pre-made posters available <https://www.hppud.org/>
- Take the pledge to not provide minors alcohol;
- Sponsor radio prevention ads during peak drive times.





New Ocean Safety website aims to reduce drownings and injuries in Hawaii

Bridget Velasco—Public Health Educator - Maui District

Office of Public Health Preparedness

The Hawaii Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB), in collaboration with the Hawaii Drowning and Aquatic Injury Prevention Advisory Committee, has launched a new website to encourage residents and visitors to swim at beaches with lifeguards to prevent drownings or serious injury in the ocean.

The website, <https://hioceansafety.com/> aims to decrease risk factors and increase "protective factors" for ocean goers, including being at a lifeguard beach. The new website contains a link to an existing Department of Health website that provides real-time information on ocean conditions at beaches with lifeguards statewide. That website can be found at <http://hawaiibeachsafety.com/> "Choosing beaches with lifeguards who can respond quickly to those in the ocean is a matter of life and death. The sooner a person in distress in the ocean can get help, the better their chance of survival," said Ralph Goto, co-chair of the Hawaii Drowning and Aquatic Injury Prevention Advisory Committee, which coordinates the website.

Data on ocean incidents can also be found on the website, including a list of beaches (some of which have become popular tourist destinations in recent years) with the highest frequency of spinal cord injuries.

"Keeping everyone who goes to the ocean safe is a top priority. We realized that there was no online resource on ocean safety in Hawaii and that it would be valuable for residents and visitors to have a comprehensive website dedicated to providing everything from the interpretation of beach hazard signage to snorkeling tips and basic data about drowning and spinal cord injuries," said Bridget Velasco, the former Hawaii Department of Health's drowning and spinal cord injury prevention coordinator. "As we continue to build up this website we hope that it will be a community resource for all things ocean safety."



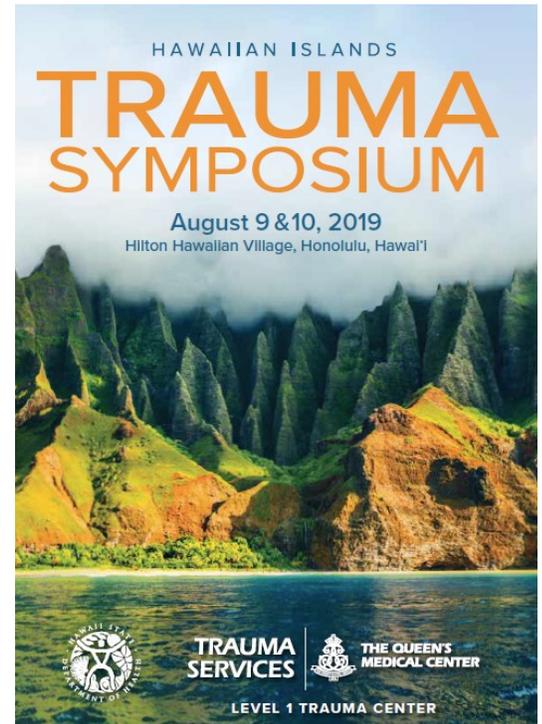
HIOceanSafety.com

Respect our ocean and stay beach safe



**Hawaiian Island Trauma Symposium
August 9-10, 2019 at Hilton Hawaiian
Village in Honolulu, Hawaii**

See Flyer [Here](#)



**2019 STATE OF HAWAII OCEAN SAFETY AND DROWNING
PREVENTION CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019 HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER**

Agenda

Panel Discussion: Climate Change, Sea Level Rise, And Weather Patterns: Effects On Ocean Safety

Hawaii Tourism Authority Update

Hawaii Department Of Health Update

Snorkel Safety

United States Lifesaving Association Update

Hawaii Government Employees Association Unit 14 Update

New Equipment / Technology Apps

Open Discussion

See Registration [Here](#)



Equal Opportunity Statement

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