



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

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**GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION RAISES AWARENESS OF  
SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES IN HAWAII**

HONOLULU – In conjunction with National Suicide Prevention Week, the Hawaii State Department of Health and the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force will join Gov. Neil Abercrombie as he presents a proclamation for Sept. 8-14 as “Suicide Prevention Week in Hawaii” at 1 p.m. Sept. 13 in the State Capitol Executive Office Ceremonial Room.

“Events such as these are known to save lives as they raise awareness and educate the public about the warning signs of suicide,” said Health Director Loretta Fuddy. “Suicide prevention week activities also send a strong message to survivors of suicide that community members care for and support them.”

Suicide was the leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii from 2007 to 2011. Nationally, a suicide occurs once every 15.2 minutes.

In Hawaii, young people are at risk; suicide is the leading cause of fatal injuries among those aged 15 to 24. Data from the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey placed Hawaii 16th highest in the nation for suicide attempts and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for those who reported making a suicide plan. In 2009, Hawaii was the highest for both of these variables nationally.

For more information on National Suicide Prevention Week, contact Nancy Kern at the Injury Prevention and Control Section of the Hawaii State Department of Health at: (808) 733-9238 or [nancy.kern@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:nancy.kern@doh.hawaii.gov)

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