



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

LORETTA J. FUDDY, ACSW, MPH
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON SUICIDE PREVENTION AND SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS IN HAWAII

HONOLULU – In observance of the 13th annual National Survivors of Suicide Day (Nov. 23) the Hawaii State Department of Health in conjunction with the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force and community-based agencies will present the 2013 Prevent Suicide Hawaii Healing After Conference titled "Sustaining Communities, Families, and Individuals Through Life-Promoting Actions." The conference will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Koolau Ballrooms and Conference Center located at 45-550 Kionaole Rd. in Kaneohe. Approximately 200 participants are expected to attend this annual event which provides hope and assistance for survivors in an atmosphere of support and healing. Sessions will be offered on survivor debriefing, healing through the arts, and strategic planning for suicide prevention in Hawaii.

Conference speakers and panelists include:

- **Dan Reidenberg, Psy.D. - Keynote Speaker**, executive director of SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) in Bloomington, MN, managing director of the National Council for Suicide Prevention, and U.S. representative to the International Association of Suicide Prevention. He serves on the steering committees for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.
- **Dr. David Brown**, regional director, Behavioral Health, Pacific Regional Medical Command, Tripler Army Medical Center.
- **Deb Goebert, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.
- **Roy Sakuma**, Roy Sakuma Productions, renowned ukulele player and well-known inspirational speaker in Hawaii on bullying prevention.
- **Mr. Pono Shim**, CEO of Enterprise Honolulu (Oahu Economic Development Board).

Popular Hawaii singer-songwriter **John Cruz** will entertain conference attendees during lunchtime.

The conference is being organized by members of the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force (PSHTF), a state, public, and private partnership of individuals, organizations, and community groups working in collaboration to provide leadership for suicide prevention efforts in Hawaii. The aim of the conference is to bring together a community of survivors, advocates, educators, policymakers, and health professionals around the issue of suicide. In addition to the DOH Injury Prevention and Control Section and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, conference sponsors include Queen's Medical Center and Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center.

For more information, the conference website is at: www.preventsuicidehiconf.org

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For more information on this news release contact:

Nancy Kern

Injury Prevention and Control Section

Phone: (808) 733-9238

Cell: (808) 220-2722

Fax: (808) 733-9222

Email: nancy.kern@doh.hawaii.gov