

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, suicide and attempted suicide are serious and complex social issues that have significant and lasting impacts on individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, with approximately one death every 12 minutes; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan (2018) reports that one person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days, and that for every person who dies by suicide, more than 30 others attempt suicide; and

WHEREAS, September is known around the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and this designation helps promote awareness of suicide prevention resources available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the goal of promoting awareness is to bring conversations about suicide into the open to help those in need; and

WHEREAS, suicide can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

WHEREAS, local organizations on the front lines of a battle that many refuse to discuss in public, include:

- the County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Concerns;
- Mental Health America of Hawaii;
- Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force;
- Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.;
- State Department of Education;

## Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

- State Department of Health;
- University of Hawaii Maui College;
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Hawaii Chapter; and
- the Crisis Line of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan has a goal of reducing suicide by 25 percent by 2025, creating healthy, safe, and empowered communities by instilling the four core values of aloha, ola, connectivity, and culture; and

WHEREAS, events to raise public awareness, and connect those impacted by suicide with counseling and prevention services will be held statewide during the month of September; and

WHEREAS, all residents are encouraged to check in on their family, friends, and neighbors and to genuinely convey appreciation and express concern for their continued health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, while suicide prevention is important to address year round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together as a community with a collective passion and strength around a difficult topic; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby recognizes the month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Concerns; Mental Health America of Hawaii; Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force; Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; State Department of Education; State Department of Health; University of Hawaii Maui College; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Hawaii Chapter; and the Crisis Line of Hawaii.