



*Senate Resolution*

**Resolution No: SR 20-02**

**Resolution Title: In Support of Student Mental Health and Campus Counseling Services**

**Authored & Introduced by: Senator Caton K. Liang**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUHW O) Senate is the elected body representing approximately 3,000 classified undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, stated in the constitution of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu "The purpose of this organization shall be to provide democratic representation for the students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu and to promote student participation in educational, cultural, social, and community activities;" and

WHEREAS, the college years are a developmentally challenging transition to adulthood and untreated mental illness may have significant impacts on student productivity, academic success, social relationships, and substance use<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, mental health disorders account for nearly one-half of the disease burden for young adults in the United States<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 16.27% of adults in Hawaii are living with mental illness and 64.6% of these adults do not receive treatment<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a leading cause of death among college-aged residents in Hawaii<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, ethnic minority groups in Hawaii report lower utilization rates for mental health services than Whites although the overall rates of mental disorders are approximately similar across ethnicities<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, students belonging to ethnic minority groups comprise approximately 74% of the student population at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, an environment of acceptance of the prevalence and effects of mental illness is essential to supporting those who suffer from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu offers free and confidential mental health services to all its students

BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu recognizes the needs of university students experiencing mental health issues and encourages students to seek the help of campus mental health services; and

BE IT RESOLVED that all UHWO faculty and staff receive mandatory training to understand student  
Senate Resolution 20-02: In Support of Student Mental Health and Campus Counseling Services. Approved with  
Amendments on May 19, 2020 by the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate of Kapolei.

emotional and mental health needs, thus encouraging the reduction of stigma surrounding mental illness; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu establishes comprehensive mental health programs that include sufficient access to psychologists, counselors, psychiatrists, social workers, and case managers; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu advocates for the allocation of four or more full-time mental health professionals to address the increasing needs of students' mental health and the increasing needs of a growing student population; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu establishes a 24-hour crisis hotline and safe messaging service for students going through crises to utilize; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu provides wall spaces for the establishment of Wellness Walls; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: UHWO Chancellor Maenette Benham, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jeffrey Moniz, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Jan Javinar, Vice Chancellor for Administration Kevin Ishida, UHWO Human Resources Department, Clinical Psychologist Steven Taketa, Clinical Psychologist Analu Sing, the UH System Student Caucus, All UHWO Division Chairs, Faculty Senate Chair Tom Hirsbrunner, and All UHWO Faculty, Staff, and Students

## ROLL CALL

**Yeas(s): Vice President Cabingas, Secretary Pagaduan, Treasurer Mance, Senators Neri, Liang, Hutchinson, Hardin, Marcos [8]**

**Nay(s): [0]**

**Abstain(s): [0]**

<sup>1</sup><https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X%2809%2900340-1/fulltext>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.mhanational.org/issues/mental-health-america-all-data>

<sup>3</sup>[https://health.hawaii.gov/injuryprevention/files/2019/08/Injury-Data-Overview\\_13\\_18a.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/injuryprevention/files/2019/08/Injury-Data-Overview_13_18a.pdf)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.nami.org/nami/media/nami-media/infographics/generalmhfacts.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><https://doi.org/10.1080/09638237.2018.1521917>

<sup>6</sup>[https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/docs/ir/UHWO\\_Quick\\_Facts.pdf](https://westoahu.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/docs/ir/UHWO_Quick_Facts.pdf)