



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Hawaii Observes National Prevention Week

HONOLULU – The Department of the Attorney General, in partnership with the Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking (HPPUD) and other community groups, will observe National Prevention Week (NPW) by participating in a statewide sign waving activity on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, between 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at various locations.

The NPW is a health observance sponsored by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), dedicated to increasing the prevention of substance use and promotion of mental health. The observance brings individuals, organizations, coalitions, states, and communities together through local events to raise awareness about the importance of preventing substance use and mental disorders. This year's theme is "Action Today. Healthier Tomorrow."

To date, confirmed locations for NPW sign-waving on Tuesday include Hana, Kauai Community College, Mililani High School, Molokai/Rawlins Chevron Station (2:30 – 4:00 p.m.), James B. Castle High School, Ilima Intermediate School, Farrington High School, Kalihi Branch YMCA, Kamehameha Shopping Center, Kuhio Park Terrace/School Street, Farrington Highway, Iolani School, Boys and Girls Club/Waianae.

Hawaii is participating in May to coincide with graduation season because, according to data from SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, adolescents and full-time college students most often use substances for the first time during June or July. The Department, HPPUD, and its partners, want to remind those under 21 years old that it is illegal to drink, and the results of alcohol-related accidents involving young drivers are disastrous and often fatal.

"Young people are our future; we have a responsibility to keep them safe and educate them of the dangers and consequences of underage drinking," says **Attorney General Russell Suzuki**.

HPPUD is a partnership of nearly 20 organizations, groups, and agencies that come together to develop activities and inform the community on underage drinking, its consequences, and prevention strategies. Go viral and hashtag #HPPUD #NPW2018.

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