
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more children and
2 young adults die from suicide each year than from cancer, heart
3 disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic lung disease
4 combined. Nationally, over four thousand youths take their
5 lives annually, making suicide the third largest cause of death
6 between the ages of ten and twenty-four.

7 In Hawaii, suicide is the second leading cause of death
8 among persons fifteen to twenty-four years old. Rates of youth
9 suicide have been on the rise in the last decade among both
10 females and males and among all ethnic groups. In Hawaii, males
11 are more likely than females to commit suicide, and native
12 Hawaiian youths are the most likely ethnic group to attempt or
13 commit suicide.

14 Research demonstrates that youth suicide is linked to
15 underlying mental health problems that can be addressed through
16 early intervention and prevention strategies. The legislature
17 notes that such intervention and prevention strategies have been
18 listed as a national health priority to deal with rising rates



1 of youth suicide. Furthermore, Congress passed federal
2 legislation in 2004, and appropriated \$82,000,000 over the next
3 three years, for statewide programs designed to help prevent
4 youth suicide. Many states have already developed comprehensive
5 statewide youth suicide and early intervention and prevention
6 strategies that seek to provide effective early intervention and
7 prevention services.

8 Suicide is a serious public health tragedy affecting
9 children and young adults in Hawaii. The legislature declares
10 that preserving and protecting the lives of children and young
11 adults is a priority for the State. The legislature further
12 finds and declares that preventing youth suicide is necessary
13 for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the
14 State. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
15 youth suicide prevention program for Hawaii.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§321- Youth suicide prevention program. (a) The
20 department of health shall establish and operate a statewide
21 youth suicide early intervention and prevention program that



1 focuses upon, but is not necessarily limited to, persons between
2 the ages of ten and twenty-four, to accomplish the following:

3 (1) Create public awareness for issues relating to youth
4 suicide prevention;

5 (2) Build community networks concerning youth suicide
6 prevention; and

7 (3) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for
8 law enforcement personnel, providers of health care,
9 school and University of Hawaii employees, and other
10 persons who have contact with individuals at risk of
11 suicide.

12 (b) The department of health shall provide appropriate
13 research, training, and technical assistance to carry out the
14 purposes of this section, which may include, but are not limited
15 to, the following:

16 (1) Providing oversight on youth suicide early
17 intervention and prevention strategies;

18 (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated
19 risk factors of youth suicide;

20 (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing youth
21 suicide early intervention techniques and
22 technologies;



1 (4) Examining trends in youth suicidal behaviors and
2 nonfatal suicidal attempts;

3 (5) Evaluating and disseminating outcomes and best
4 practices of mental and behavioral health services at
5 institutions of higher education; and

6 (6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the director of
7 health.

8 (c) Research, training, and technical assistance resources
9 shall be provided, but shall not be limited, to the following
10 entities:

11 (1) Political subdivisions of the State;

12 (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;

13 (3) Institutions of higher education;

14 (4) The department of education;

15 (5) Public organizations;

16 (6) Private nonprofit organizations; and

17 (7) Health and social service organizations;

18 provided that specialized training shall be specifically
19 provided to the department of education personnel who confront
20 the challenge of early identification of students at risk of
21 suicide or who have daily contact with students.



1 (d) The department of health may develop and submit
2 proposals for funding from federal agencies and private
3 organizations to support the purposes of this Act.

4 (e) The department of health may adopt rules in accordance
5 with chapter 91 to implement the purposes of this section."

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1, or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
9 implementation of the statewide youth suicide early intervention
10 and prevention program pursuant to section 321- , Hawaii
11 Revised Statutes.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 health for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
16 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



HB 3131

HD1

Report Title:

Youth Suicide Prevention; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention program. Appropriates funds to DOH to implement the program. (HB3131 HD1)

