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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A STATEWIDE YOUTH SUICIDE EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES UPON, BUT IS NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO, PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF TEN AND TWENTY-FOUR.

1 WHEREAS, more children and young adults die from suicide  
2 each year than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects,  
3 stroke, and chronic lung disease combined; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, nationally, over four thousand youths take their  
6 lives annually, making suicide the third largest cause of death  
7 between the ages of ten and twenty-four; and  
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9 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, suicide is the second leading cause of  
10 death among persons between the age of fifteen and twenty-four  
11 and rates of youth suicide have been on the rise in the last  
12 decade among both females and males and among all ethnic groups;  
13 and  
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15 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, males are more likely than females to  
16 commit suicide, and native Hawaiian youths are the most likely  
17 ethnic group to attempt or commit suicide; and  
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19 WHEREAS, research demonstrates that youth suicide is linked  
20 to underlying mental health problems that can be addressed  
21 through early intervention and prevention strategies and  
22 providing these intervention and prevention strategies to deal  
23 with rising rates of youth suicide has been listed as a national  
24 health priority; and  
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26 WHEREAS, Congress passed federal legislation in 2004, and  
27 appropriated \$82,000,000 over the next three years, for  
28 statewide programs designed to help prevent youth suicide and  
29 many states have already developed comprehensive statewide youth  
30 suicide and early intervention and prevention strategies that



1 seek to provide effective early intervention and prevention  
2 services; and  
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4 WHEREAS, suicide is a serious public health tragedy  
5 affecting children and young adults in Hawaii and preserving and  
6 protecting the lives of children and young adults is a high  
7 priority and is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of  
8 the residents of the State; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
13 requested to establish and operate a statewide youth suicide  
14 early intervention and prevention program that focuses upon, but  
15 is not necessarily limited to, persons between the ages of ten  
16 and twenty-four, to accomplish the following:  
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- 18 (1) Create public awareness for issues relating to youth  
19 suicide prevention;  
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- 21 (2) Build community networks concerning youth suicide  
22 prevention; and  
23
- 24 (3) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for  
25 law enforcement personnel, providers of health care,  
26 school and University of Hawaii employees, and other  
27 persons who have contact with individuals at risk of  
28 suicide; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
31 requested to provide appropriate research, training, and  
32 technical assistance, which may include, but are not limited to,  
33 the following:  
34

- 35 (1) Providing oversight on youth suicide early  
36 intervention and prevention strategies;  
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- 38 (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated  
39 risk factors of youth suicide;  
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- 41 (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing youth  
42 suicide early intervention techniques and  
43 technologies;  
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- 1 (4) Examining trends in youth suicidal behaviors and
- 2 nonfatal suicidal attempts;
- 3
- 4 (5) Evaluating and disseminating outcomes and best
- 5 practices of mental and behavioral health services at
- 6 institutions of higher education; and
- 7
- 8 (6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the Director of
- 9 Health; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
 12 requested to provide research, training, and assistance to at  
 13 least the following entities:

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- 15 (1) The counties;
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- 17 (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;
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- 19 (3) Institutions of higher education;
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- 21 (4) Public organizations;
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- 23 (5) Private nonprofit organizations; and
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- 25 (6) Health and social service organizations; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
 28 requested to provide specialized training to the Department of  
 29 Education personnel who confront the challenge of early  
 30 identification of students at risk of suicide or who have daily  
 31 contact with students; and

32  
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
 35 who, in turn, is requested to distribute copies to institutions  
 36 of higher education, public organizations, private nonprofit  
 37 organizations, and health and social service organizations, the  
 38 Superintendent and Chairperson of the Board of Education, the  
 39 Mayor and Chairperson of the Council of each county, and the  
 40 Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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OFFERED BY: Ami A. Auekahi



*Tony W...*  
*John...*