
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A
STATEWIDE SUICIDE EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION
PROGRAM.

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
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5 WHEREAS, nationally, over four thousand youths take their
6 lives annually, making suicide the third largest cause of death
7 among those who are between ten and twenty-four years of age;
8 and
9

10 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, suicide is the second leading cause of
11 death among those who are fifteen to twenty-four years of age;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, the rates of youth suicide have been on the rise
15 in the last decade among both females and males and among all
16 ethnic groups; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, males are more likely than females to
19 commit suicide, and native Hawaiian youths are the most likely
20 ethnic group to attempt or commit suicide; and
21

22 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that youth suicide is
23 linked to underlying mental health problems; and
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25 WHEREAS, early intervention and prevention strategies have
26 been listed as a national health priority to deal with the
27 rising rates of youth suicide; and
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1 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 2004 and
2 appropriated \$82,000,000 over the next three years for statewide
3 programs designed to help prevent youth suicide, and many states
4 have already developed comprehensive statewide youth suicide and
5 early intervention and prevention strategies to provide
6 effective early intervention and prevention services; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds and declares that suicide is
9 a serious public health tragedy affecting not only children and
10 young adults, but all adults in Hawaii, and preserving and
11 protecting the lives of all people is a priority for the State;
12 now, therefore,
13

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
17 requested to establish and operate a statewide suicide early
18 intervention and prevention program for people of all ages; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program shall operate to:

- 21 (1) Create public awareness of issues relating to suicide
22 prevention;
23
24 (2) Build community networks concerning suicide
25 prevention; and
26
27 (3) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for
28 law enforcement personnel, providers of health care,
29 Department of Education, and University of Hawaii
30 employees, and other persons who have contact with
31 individuals at risk of suicide; and
32
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
35 requested to provide appropriate research, training, and
36 technical assistance for the program, including:
37

- 38 (1) Providing oversight on suicide early intervention and
39 prevention strategies;
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- 1 (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated
- 2 risk factors of suicide;
- 3
- 4 (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing suicide
- 5 early intervention techniques and technologies;
- 6
- 7 (4) Examining trends in suicidal behaviors and nonfatal
- 8 suicidal attempts;
- 9
- 10 (5) Evaluating and disseminating outcomes and best
- 11 practices of mental and behavioral health services at
- 12 institutions of higher education; and
- 13
- 14 (6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the Director of
- 15 Health; and
- 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 18 requested to provide research, training, and technical
 19 assistance to achieve the purposes of the program, to the
 20 following entities:

- 21
- 22 (1) The counties;
- 23
- 24 (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;
- 25
- 26 (3) Institutions of higher education;
- 27
- 28 (4) The Department of Education;
- 29
- 30 (5) Public organizations;
- 31
- 32 (6) Private nonprofit organizations; and
- 33
- 34 (7) Health and social service organizations; and
- 35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 37 requested to develop and submit proposals for funding from
 38 federal agencies and private organizations to support the
 39 operations of the program; and

40



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
 3 the Superintendent of Education, the President of the University
 4 of Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian
 5 Affairs.

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