
HOUSE 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
8

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
14

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
18

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
25

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
31 seek to provide effective early intervention and prevention
32 services; and
33



1 WHEREAS, suicide is a serious public health tragedy
2 affecting children and young adults in Hawaii and preserving and
3 protecting the lives of children and young adults is a high
4 priority and is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of
5 the residents of the State; now, therefore,

6
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2006, that the Department of Health is requested to establish
10 and operate a statewide youth suicide early intervention and
11 prevention program that focuses upon, but is not necessarily
12 limited to, persons between the ages of ten and twenty-four, to
13 accomplish the following:

- 14
15 (1) Create public awareness for issues relating to youth
16 suicide prevention;
17
18 (2) Build community networks concerning youth suicide
19 prevention; and
20
21 (3) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for
22 law enforcement personnel, providers of health care,
23 school and University of Hawaii employees, and other
24 persons who have contact with individuals at risk of
25 suicide; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
28 requested to provide appropriate research, training, and
29 technical assistance, which may include, but are not limited to,
30 the following:

- 31
32 (1) Providing oversight on youth suicide early
33 intervention and prevention strategies;
34
35 (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated
36 risk factors of youth suicide;
37
38 (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing youth
39 suicide early intervention techniques and
40 technologies;
41
42 (4) Examining trends in youth suicidal behaviors and
43 nonfatal suicidal attempts;
44



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

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

(6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the Director of Health; and

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

- (1) The counties;
- (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;
- (3) Institutions of higher education;
- (4) Public organizations;
- (5) Private nonprofit organizations; and
- (6) Health and social service organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to provide specialized training to the Department of Education personnel who confront the challenge of early identification of students at risk of suicide or who have daily contact with students; and

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

OFFERED BY:

Alan A. Curbish

Tony Watts

Josh Thomas

